



The Gospel According to

MATTHEW

From the New Testament of the
New Jerusalem Bible.

Perfect for classrooms, homeschool,
and all studies.

Area for notes included

Matthew - Chapter 1:1-10

- 1- Roll of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:
- 2- Abraham fathered Isaac, Isaac fathered Jacob, Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers,
- 3- Judah fathered Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez fathered Hezron, Hezron fathered Ram,
- 4- Ram fathered Amminadab, Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon,
- 5- Salmon fathered Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz fathered Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed fathered Jesse;
- 6- and Jesse fathered King David. David fathered Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,
- 7- Solomon fathered Rehoboam, Rehoboam fathered Abijah, Abijah fathered Asa,
- 8- Asa fathered Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat fathered Joram, Joram fathered Uzziah,
- 9- Uzziah fathered Jotham, Jotham fathered Ahaz, Ahaz fathered Hezekiah,
- 10- Hezekiah fathered Manasseh, Manasseh fathered Amon, Amon fathered Josiah;

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 1:11-18

11- and Josiah fathered Jechoniah and his brothers. Then the deportation to Babylon took place.

12- After the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah fathered Shealtiel, Shealtiel fathered Zerubbabel,

13- Zerubbabel fathered Abiud, Abiud fathered Eliakim, Eliakim fathered Azor,

14- Azor fathered Zadok, Zadok fathered Achim, Achim fathered Eliud,

15- Eliud fathered Eleazar, Eleazar fathered Matthan, Matthan fathered Jacob;

16- and Jacob fathered Joseph the husband of Mary; of her was born Jesus who is called Christ.

17- The sum of generations is therefore: fourteen from Abraham to David; fourteen from David to the Babylonian deportation; and fourteen from the Babylonian deportation to Christ.

18- This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 1:19-25

19- Her husband Joseph, being an upright man and wanting to spare her disgrace, decided to divorce her informally.

20- He had made up his mind to do this when suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.'

21- She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.'

22- Now all this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

23- Look! the virgin is with child and will give birth to a son whom they will call Immanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

24- When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home;

25- he had not had intercourse with her when she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 2:1-8

1- After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, suddenly some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east

2- asking, 'Where is the infant king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.'

3- When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem.

4- He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

5- They told him, 'At Bethlehem in Judaea, 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 leaders of Judah, for from you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

7- Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared

8- and sent them on to Bethlehem with the words, 'Go and find out all about the child, and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 2:9-16

9- Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And suddenly the star they had seen rising went forward and halted over the place where the child was.

10- The sight of the star filled them with delight,

11- and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.

12- But they were given a warning in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

13- After they had left, suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.'

14- So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt,

15- where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt.

16- Herod was furious on realising that he had been fooled by the wise men, and in Bethlehem and its surrounding district he had all the male children killed who were two years old or less, reckoning by the date he had been careful to ask the wise men.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 2:17-23

17- Then were fulfilled the words spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

18- A voice is heard in Ramah, lamenting and weeping bitterly: it is Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted because they are no more.

19- After Herod's death, suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt

20- and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.'

21- So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel.

22- But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the region of Galilee.

23- There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled: He will be called a Nazarene.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 3:1-9

1- In due course John the Baptist appeared; he proclaimed this message in the desert of Judaea,

2- 'Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.'

3- This was the man spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said: A voice of one that cries in the desert, 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.'

4- This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather loin-cloth round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

5- Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him,

6- and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins.

7- But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming retribution?

8- Produce fruit in keeping with repentance,

9- and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 3:10-17

10- Even now the axe is being laid to the root of the trees, so that any tree failing to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire.

11- I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who comes after me is more powerful than I, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

12- His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

13- Then Jesus appeared: he came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John.

14- John tried to dissuade him, with the words, 'It is I who need baptism from you, and yet you come to me!'

15- But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that uprightness demands.' Then John gave in to him.

16- And when Jesus had been baptised he at once came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him.

17- And suddenly there was a voice from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 4:1-9

- 1- Then Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the desert to be put to the test by the devil.
- 2- He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was hungry,
- 3- and the tester came and said to him, 'If you are Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.'
- 4- But he replied, 'Scripture says: Human beings live not on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'
- 5- The devil then took him to the holy city and set him on the parapet of the Temple.
- 6- 'If you are Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He has given his angels orders about you, and they will carry you in their arms in case you trip over a stone.'
- 7- Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'
- 8- Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour.
- 9- And he said to him, 'I will give you all these, if you fall at my feet and do me homage.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 4:10-18

10- Then Jesus replied, 'Away with you, Satan! For scripture says: The Lord your God is the one to whom you must do homage, him alone you must serve.'

11- Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels appeared and looked after him.

12- Hearing that John had been arrested he withdrew to Galilee,

13- and leaving Nazara he went and settled in Capernaum, beside the lake, on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali.

14- This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

15- Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea beyond Jordan. Galilee of the nations!

16- The people that lived in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a country of shadow dark as death a light has dawned.

17- From then onwards Jesus began his proclamation with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.'

18- As he was walking by the Lake of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast into the lake with their net, for they were fishermen.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 4:19-25

19- And he said to them, 'Come after me and I will make you fishers of people.'

20- And at once they left their nets and followed him.

21- Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.

22- And at once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

23- He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing all kinds of disease and illness among the people.

24- His fame spread throughout Syria, and those who were suffering from diseases and painful complaints of one kind or another, the possessed, epileptics, the paralysed, were all brought to him, and he cured them.

25- Large crowds followed him, coming from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judaea and Transjordan.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 5:1-10

1- Seeing the crowds, he went onto the mountain. And when he was seated his disciples came to him.

2- Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

3- How blessed are the poor in spirit: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

4- Blessed are the gentle: they shall have the earth as inheritance.

5- Blessed are those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

6- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for uprightness: they shall have their fill.

7- Blessed are the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

8- Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God.

9- Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be recognised as children of God.

10- Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of uprightness: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 5:11-18

11- 'Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you falsely on my account.

12- Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven; this is how they persecuted the prophets before you.

13- 'You are salt for the earth. But if salt loses its taste, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled under people's feet.

14- 'You are light for the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden.

15- No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house.

16- In the same way your light must shine in people's sight, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in heaven.

17- 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them.

18- In truth I tell you, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, is to disappear from the Law until all its purpose is achieved.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 5:19-25

19- Therefore, anyone who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of Heaven; but the person who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of Heaven.

20- 'For I tell you, if your uprightness does not surpass that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of Heaven.

21- 'You have heard how it was said to our ancestors, You shall not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court.

22- But I say this to you, anyone who is angry with a brother will answer for it before the court; anyone who calls a brother "Fool" will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and anyone who calls him "Traitor" will answer for it in hell fire.

23- So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,

24- leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering.

25- Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 5:26-34

26- In truth I tell you, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

27- 'You have heard how it was said, You shall not commit adultery.

28- But I say this to you, if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

29- If your right eye should be your downfall, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of yourself than to have your whole body thrown into hell.

30- And if your right hand should be your downfall, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of yourself than to have your whole body go to hell.

31- 'It has also been said, Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal.

32- But I say this to you, everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of an illicit marriage, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

33- 'Again, you have heard how it was said to our ancestors, You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord.

34- But I say this to you, do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne;

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 5:35-44

35- or by earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great King.

36- Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black.

37- All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the Evil One.

38- 'You have heard how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth.

39- But I say this to you: offer no resistance to the wicked. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well;

40- if someone wishes to go to law with you to get your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.

41- And if anyone requires you to go one mile, go two miles with him.

42- Give to anyone who asks you, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

43- 'You have heard how it was said, You will love your neighbour and hate your enemy.

44- But I say this to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you;

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 5:45-48

45- so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on the bad as well as the good, and sends down rain to fall on the upright and the wicked alike.

46- For if you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Do not even the tax collectors do as much?

47- And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional?

48- Do not even the gentiles do as much? You must therefore be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 6:1-7

1- 'Be careful not to parade your uprightness in public to attract attention; otherwise you will lose all reward from your Father in heaven.

2- So when you give alms, do not have it trumpeted before you; this is what the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win human admiration. In truth I tell you, they have had their reward.

3- But when you give alms, your left hand must not know what your right is doing;

4- your almsgiving must be secret, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.

5- 'And when you pray, do not imitate the hypocrites: they love to say their prayers standing up in the synagogues and at the street corners for people to see them. In truth I tell you, they have had their reward.

6- But when you pray, go to your private room, shut yourself in, and so pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.

7- 'In your prayers do not babble as the gentiles do, for they think that by using many words they will make themselves heard.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 6:8-17

8- Do not be like them; your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9- So you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be held holy,

10- your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

11- Give us today our daily bread.

12- And forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven those who are in debt to us.

13- And do not put us to the test, but save us from the Evil One.

14- 'Yes, if you forgive others their failings, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours;

15- but if you do not forgive others, your Father will not forgive your failings either.

16- 'When you are fasting, do not put on a gloomy look as the hypocrites do: they go about looking unsightly to let people know they are fasting. In truth I tell you, they have had their reward.

17- But when you fast, put scent on your head and wash your face,

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 6:18-24

18- so that no one will know you are fasting except your Father who sees all that is done in secret; and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.

19- 'Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and woodworm destroy them and thieves can break in and steal.

20- But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor woodworm destroys them and thieves cannot break in and steal.

21- For wherever your treasure is, there will your heart be too.

22- 'The lamp of the body is the eye. It follows that if your eye is clear, your whole body will be filled with light.

23- But if your eye is diseased, your whole body will be darkness. If then, the light inside you is darkened, what darkness that will be!

24- 'No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or be attached to the first and despise the second. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 6:25-31

25- 'That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and what you are to wear. Surely life is more than food, and the body more than clothing!

26- Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are?

27- Can any of you, however much you worry, add one single cubit to your span of life?

28- And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin;

29- yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his royal robes was clothed like one of these.

30- Now if that is how God clothes the wild flowers growing in the field which are there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you who have so little faith?

31- So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? What are we to wear?"

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 6:32-34

32- It is the gentiles who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all.

33- Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on God's saving justice, and all these other things will be given you as well.

34- So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 7:1-8

1- 'Do not judge, and you will not be judged;

2- because the judgements you give are the judgements you will get, and the standard you use will be the standard used for you.

3- Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the great log in your own?

4- And how dare you say to your brother, "Let me take that splinter out of your eye," when, look, there is a great log in your own?

5- Hypocrite! Take the log out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take the splinter out of your brother's eye.

6- 'Do not give dogs what is holy; and do not throw your pearls in front of pigs, or they may trample them and then turn on you and tear you to pieces.

7- 'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.

8- Everyone who asks receives; everyone who searches finds; everyone who knocks will have the door opened.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 7:9-17

9- Is there anyone among you who would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread?

10- Or would hand him a snake when he asked for a fish?

11- If you, then, evil as you are, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

12- 'So always treat others as you would like them to treat you; that is the Law and the Prophets.

13- 'Enter by the narrow gate, since the road that leads to destruction is wide and spacious, and many take it;

14- but it is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

15- 'Beware of false prophets who come to you disguised as sheep but underneath are ravenous wolves.

16- You will be able to tell them by their fruits. Can people pick grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles?

17- In the same way, a sound tree produces good fruit but a rotten tree bad fruit.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 7:18-26

18- A sound tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor a rotten tree bear good fruit.

19- Any tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown on the fire.

20- I repeat, you will be able to tell them by their fruits.

21- 'It is not anyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," who will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven.

22- When the day comes many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, work many miracles in your name?"

23- Then I shall tell them to their faces: I have never known you; away from me, all evil doers!

24- 'Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock.

25- Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against that house, and it did not fall: it was founded on rock.

26- But everyone who listens to these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a stupid man who built his house on sand.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 7:27-29

27- Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and struck that house, and it fell; and what a fall it had!

28- Jesus had now finished what he wanted to say, and his teaching made a deep impression on the people

29- because he taught them with authority, unlike their own scribes.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 8:1-9

1- After he had come down from the mountain large crowds followed him.

2- Suddenly a man with a virulent skin-disease came up and bowed low in front of him, saying, 'Lord, if you are willing, you can cleanse me.'

3- Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him saying, 'I am willing. Be cleansed.' And his skin-disease was cleansed at once.

4- Then Jesus said to him, 'Mind you tell no one, but go and show yourself to the priest and make the offering prescribed by Moses, as evidence to them.'

5- When he went into Capernaum a centurion came up and pleaded with him.

6- 'Sir,' he said, 'my servant is lying at home paralysed and in great pain.'

7- Jesus said to him, 'I will come myself and cure him.'

8- The centurion replied, 'Sir, I am not worthy to have you under my roof; just give the word and my servant will be cured.'

9- For I am under authority myself and have soldiers under me; and I say to one man, "Go," and he goes; to another, "Come here," and he comes; to my servant, "Do this," and he does it.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 8:10-18

10- When Jesus heard this he was astonished and said to those following him, 'In truth I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found faith as great as this.

11- And I tell you that many will come from east and west and sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob at the feast in the kingdom of Heaven;

12- but the children of the kingdom will be thrown out into the darkness outside, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'

13- And to the centurion Jesus said, 'Go back, then; let this be done for you, as your faith demands.' And the servant was cured at that moment.

14- And going into Peter's house Jesus found Peter's mother-in-law in bed and feverish.

15- He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him.

16- That evening they brought him many who were possessed by devils. He drove out the spirits with a command and cured all who were sick.

17- This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: He himself bore our sicknesses away and carried our diseases.

18- When Jesus saw the crowd all about him he gave orders to leave for the other side.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 8:19-27

19- One of the scribes then came up and said to him, 'Master, I will follow you wherever you go.'

20- Jesus said, 'Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head.'

21- Another man, one of the disciples, said to him, 'Lord, let me go and bury my father first.'

22- But Jesus said, 'Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their dead.'

23- Then he got into the boat followed by his disciples.

24- Suddenly a storm broke over the lake, so violent that the boat was being swamped by the waves. But he was asleep.

25- So they went to him and woke him saying, 'Save us, Lord, we are lost!'

26- And he said to them, 'Why are you so frightened, you who have so little faith?' And then he stood up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

27- They were astounded and said, 'Whatever kind of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 8:28-34

28- When he reached the territory of the Gadarenes on the other side, two demoniacs came towards him out of the tombs -- they were so dangerously violent that nobody could use that path.

29- Suddenly they shouted, 'What do you want with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torture us before the time?'

30- Now some distance away there was a large herd of pigs feeding,

31- and the devils pleaded with Jesus, 'If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.'

32- And he said to them, 'Go then,' and they came out and made for the pigs; and at that the whole herd charged down the cliff into the lake and perished in the water.

33- The herdsmen ran off and made for the city, where they told the whole story, including what had happened to the demoniacs.

34- Suddenly the whole city set out to meet Jesus; and as soon as they saw him they implored him to leave their neighbourhood.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 9:1-9

1- He got back in the boat, crossed the water and came to his home town.

2- And suddenly some people brought him a paralytic stretched out on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, 'Take comfort, my child, your sins are forgiven.'

3- And now some scribes said to themselves, 'This man is being blasphemous.'

4- Knowing what was in their minds Jesus said, 'Why do you have such wicked thoughts in your hearts?'

5- Now, which of these is easier: to say, "Your sins are forgiven," or to say, "Get up and walk"?

6- But to prove to you that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins,' -- then he said to the paralytic-'get up, pick up your bed and go off home.'

7- And the man got up and went home.

8- A feeling of awe came over the crowd when they saw this, and they praised God for having given such authority to human beings.

9- As Jesus was walking on from there he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 9:10-17

10- Now while he was at table in the house it happened that a number of tax collectors and sinners came to sit at the table with Jesus and his disciples.

11- When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your master eat with tax collectors and sinners?'

12- When he heard this he replied, 'It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick.

13- Go and learn the meaning of the words: Mercy is what pleases me, not sacrifice. And indeed I came to call not the upright, but sinners.'

14- Then John's disciples came to him and said, 'Why is it that we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not?'

15- Jesus replied, 'Surely the bridegroom's attendants cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is still with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.

16- No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth onto an old cloak, because the patch pulls away from the cloak and the tear gets worse.

17- Nor do people put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, the wine runs out, and the skins are lost. No; they put new wine in fresh skins and both are preserved.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 9:18-26

18- While he was speaking to them, suddenly one of the officials came up, who bowed low in front of him and said, 'My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her and her life will be saved.'

19- Jesus rose and, with his disciples, followed him.

20- Then suddenly from behind him came a woman, who had been suffering from a haemorrhage for twelve years, and she touched the fringe of his cloak,

21- for she was thinking, 'If only I can touch his cloak I shall be saved.'

22- Jesus turned round and saw her; and he said to her, 'Courage, my daughter, your faith has saved you.' And from that moment the woman was saved.

23- When Jesus reached the official's house and saw the flute-players, with the crowd making a commotion, he said,

24- 'Get out of here; the little girl is not dead; she is asleep.' And they ridiculed him.

25- But when the people had been turned out he went inside and took her by the hand; and she stood up.

26- And the news of this spread all round the countryside.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 9:27-35

27- As Jesus went on his way two blind men followed him shouting, 'Take pity on us, son of David.'

28- And when Jesus reached the house the blind men came up to him and he said to them, 'Do you believe I can do this?' They said, 'Lord, we do.'

29- Then he touched their eyes saying, 'According to your faith, let it be done to you.'

30- And their sight returned. Then Jesus sternly warned them, 'Take care that no one learns about this.'

31- But when they had gone away, they talked about him all over the countryside.

32- They had only just left when suddenly a man was brought to him, a dumb demoniac

33- And when the devil was driven out, the dumb man spoke and the people were amazed and said, 'Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel!'

34- But the Pharisees said, 'It is through the prince of devils that he drives out devils.'

35- Jesus made a tour through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing all kinds of disease and all kinds of illness.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 9:26-37

36- And when he saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd.

37- Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers to his harvest.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 10:1-9

1- He summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to drive them out and to cure all kinds of disease and all kinds of illness.

2- These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John;

3- Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;

4- Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who was also his betrayer.

5- These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows: 'Do not make your way to gentile territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town;

6- go instead to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.

7- And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.

8- Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those suffering from virulent skin-diseases, drive out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.

9- Provide yourselves with no gold or silver, not even with coppers for your purses,

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 10:10-17

10- with no haversack for the journey or spare tunic or footwear or a staff, for the labourer deserves his keep.

11- 'Whatever town or village you go into, seek out someone worthy and stay with him until you leave.

12- As you enter his house, salute it,

13- and if the house deserves it, may your peace come upon it; if it does not, may your peace come back to you.

14- And if anyone does not welcome you or listen to what you have to say, as you walk out of the house or town shake the dust from your feet.

15- In truth I tell you, on the Day of Judgement it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

16- Look, I am sending you out like sheep among wolves; so be cunning as snakes and yet innocent as doves.

17- 'Be prepared for people to hand you over to sanhedrins and scourge you in their synagogues.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 10:18-24

18- You will be brought before governors and kings for my sake, as evidence to them and to the gentiles.

19- But when you are handed over, do not worry about how to speak or what to say; what you are to say will be given to you when the time comes,

20- because it is not you who will be speaking; the Spirit of your Father will be speaking in you.

21- 'Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will come forward against their parents and have them put to death.

22- You will be universally hated on account of my name; but anyone who stands firm to the end will be saved.

23- If they persecute you in one town, take refuge in the next; and if they persecute you in that, take refuge in another. In truth I tell you, you will not have gone the round of the towns of Israel before the Son of man comes.

24- 'Disciple is not superior to teacher, nor slave to master.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 10:25-32

25- It is enough for disciple to grow to be like teacher, and slave like master. If they have called the master of the house "Beelzebul", how much more the members of his household?

26- 'So do not be afraid of them. Everything now covered up will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear.

27- What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the housetops.

28- 'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell.

29- Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing.

30- Why, every hair on your head has been counted.

31- So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

32- 'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of human beings, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 10:33-40

33- But the one who disowns me in the presence of human beings, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.

34- 'Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth: it is not peace I have come to bring, but a sword.

35- For I have come to set son against father, daughter against mother, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law;

36- a person's enemies will be the members of his own household.

37- 'No one who prefers father or mother to me is worthy of me. No one who prefers son or daughter to me is worthy of me.

38- Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me.

39- Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

40- 'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 10:41-42

41- 'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes an upright person because he is upright will have the reward of an upright person.'

42- 'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then in truth I tell you, he will most certainly not go without his reward.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 11:1-8

1- When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples he moved on from there to teach and preach in their towns.

2- Now John had heard in prison what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him,

3- 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to expect someone else?'

4- Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see;

5- the blind see again, and the lame walk, those suffering from virulent skin-diseases are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life and the good news is proclaimed to the poor;

6- and blessed is anyone who does not find me a cause of falling.'

7- As the men were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John, 'What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No?

8- Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Look, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 11:9-17

9- Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet:

10- he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger in front of you to prepare your way before you.

11- 'In truth I tell you, of all the children born to women, there has never been anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of Heaven is greater than he.

12- Since John the Baptist came, up to this present time, the kingdom of Heaven has been subjected to violence and the violent are taking it by storm.

13- Because it was towards John that all the prophecies of the prophets and of the Law were leading;

14- and he, if you will believe me, is the Elijah who was to return.

15- Anyone who has ears should listen!

16- 'What comparison can I find for this generation? It is like children shouting to each other as they sit in the market place:

17- We played the pipes for you, and you wouldn't dance; we sang dirges, and you wouldn't be mourners.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 11:18-25

18- 'For John came, neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He is possessed."

19- The Son of man came, eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners." Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.'

20- Then he began to reproach the towns in which most of his miracles had been worked, because they refused to repent.

21- 'Alas for you, Chorazin! Alas for you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

22- Still, I tell you that it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on Judgement Day than for you.

23- And as for you, Capernaum, did you want to be raised as high as heaven? You shall be flung down to hell. For if the miracles done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have been standing yet.

24- Still, I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on Judgement Day than for you.

25- At that time Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to little children.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 11:26-30

26- Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.

27- Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as 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 labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.

29- Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30- Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 12:1-9

1- At that time Jesus went through the cornfields one Sabbath day. His disciples were hungry and began to pick ears of corn and eat them.

2- The Pharisees noticed it and said to him, 'Look, your disciples are doing something that is forbidden on the Sabbath.'

3- But he said to them, 'Have you not read what David did when he and his followers were hungry

4- how he went into the house of God and they ate the loaves of the offering although neither he nor his followers were permitted to eat them, but only the priests?

5- Or again, have you not read in the Law that on the Sabbath day the Temple priests break the Sabbath without committing any fault?

6- Now here, I tell you, is something greater than the Temple.

7- And if you had understood the meaning of the words: Mercy is what pleases me, not sacrifice, you would not have condemned the blameless.

8- For the Son of man is master of the Sabbath.'

9- He moved on from there and went to their synagogue;

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 12:10-18

10- now a man was there with a withered hand. They asked him, 'Is it permitted to cure somebody on the Sabbath day?' hoping for something to charge him with.

11- But he said to them, 'If any one of you here had only one sheep and it fell down a hole on the Sabbath day, would he not get hold of it and lift it out?

12- Now a man is far more important than a sheep, so it follows that it is permitted on the Sabbath day to do good.'

13- Then he said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out and his hand was restored, as sound as the other one.

14- At this the Pharisees went out and began to plot against him, discussing how to destroy him.

15- Jesus knew this and withdrew from the district. Many followed him and he cured them all

16- but warned them not to make him known.

17- This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

18- Look! My servant whom I have chosen, my beloved, in whom my soul delights, I will send my Spirit upon him, and he will present judgement to the nations;

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 12:19-27

19- he will not brawl or cry out, his voice is not heard in the streets,

20- he will not break the crushed reed, or snuff the faltering wick,

21- until he has made judgement victorious; in him the nations will put their hope.

22- Then they brought to him a blind and dumb demoniac; and he cured him, so that the dumb man could speak and see.

23- All the people were astounded and said, 'Can this be the son of David?'

24- But when the Pharisees heard this they said, 'The man drives out devils only through Beelzebul, the chief of the devils.'

25- Knowing what was in their minds he said to them, 'Every kingdom divided against itself is heading for ruin; and no town, no household divided against itself can last.

26- Now if Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself; so how can his kingdom last?

27- And if it is through Beelzebul that I drive devils out, through whom do your own experts drive them out? They shall be your judges, then.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 12:28-35

28- But if it is through the Spirit of God that I drive out devils, then be sure that the kingdom of God has caught you unawares.

29- 'Or again, how can anyone make his way into a strong man's house and plunder his property unless he has first tied up the strong man? Only then can he plunder his house.

30- 'Anyone who is not with me is against me, and anyone who does not gather in with me throws away.

31- And so I tell you, every human sin and blasphemy will be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

32- And anyone who says a word against the Son of man will be forgiven; but no one who speaks against the Holy Spirit will be forgiven either in this world or in the next.

33- 'Make a tree sound and its fruit will be sound; make a tree rotten and its fruit will be rotten. For the tree can be told by its fruit.

34- You brood of vipers, how can your speech be good when you are evil? For words flow out of what fills the heart.

35- Good people draw good things from their store of goodness; bad people draw bad things from their store of badness.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 12:36-42

36- So I tell you this, that for every unfounded word people utter they will answer on Judgement Day,

37- since it is by your words you will be justified, and by your words condemned.'

38- Then some of the scribes and Pharisees spoke up. 'Master,' they said, 'we should like to see a sign from you.'

39- He replied, 'It is an evil and unfaithful generation that asks for a sign! The only sign it will be given is the sign of the prophet Jonah.

40- For as Jonah remained in the belly of the sea-monster for three days and three nights, so will the Son of man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.

41- On Judgement Day the men of Nineveh will appear against this generation and they will be its condemnation, because when Jonah preached they repented; and look, there is something greater than Jonah here.

42- On Judgement Day the Queen of the South will appear against this generation and be its condemnation, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and look, there is something greater than Solomon here.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 12:43-50

43- 'When an unclean spirit goes out of someone it wanders through waterless country looking for a place to rest, and cannot find one.

44- Then it says, "I will return to the home I came from." But on arrival, finding it unoccupied, swept and tidied,

45- it then goes off and collects seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and set up house there, and so that person ends up worse off than before. That is what will happen to this wicked generation.'

46- He was still speaking to the crowds when suddenly his mother and his brothers were standing outside and were anxious to have a word with him.

47- Someone said to him: Your mother and brothers are standing outside and want to speak to you.

48- But to the man who told him this Jesus replied, 'Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?'

49- And stretching out his hand towards his disciples he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers.

50- Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 13:1-9

1- That same day, Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside,

2- but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the shore,

3- and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Listen, a sower went out to sow.

4- As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up.

5- Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up at once, because there was no depth of earth;

6- but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away.

7- Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

8- Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

9- Anyone who has ears should listen!'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 13:10-17

10- Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?'

11- In answer, he said, 'Because to you is granted to understand the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven, but to them it is not granted.'

12- Anyone who has will be given more and will have more than enough; but anyone who has not will be deprived even of what he has.

13- The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding.

14- So in their case what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah is being fulfilled: Listen and listen, but never understand! Look and look, but never perceive!

15- This people's heart has grown coarse, their ears dulled, they have shut their eyes tight to avoid using their eyes to see, their ears to hear, their heart to understand, changing their ways and being healed by me.

16- 'But blessed are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear!

17- In truth I tell you, many prophets and upright people longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 13:18-25

18- 'So pay attention to the parable of the sower.

19- When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the Evil One comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the seed sown on the edge of the path.

20- The seed sown on patches of rock is someone who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy.

21- But such a person has no root deep down and does not last; should some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, at once he falls away.

22- The seed sown in thorns is someone who hears the word, but the worry of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and so it produces nothing.

23- And the seed sown in rich soil is someone who hears the word and understands it; this is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

24- He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field.

25- While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 13:26-33

26- When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, then the darnel appeared as well.

27- The owner's labourers went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?"

28- He said to them, "Some enemy has done this." And the labourers said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?"

29- But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it.

30- Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn." '

31- He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field.

32- It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air can come and shelter in its branches.'

33- He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 13:34-41

34- In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables.

35- This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet: I will speak to you in parables, unfold what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.

36- Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain to us the parable about the darnel in the field.'

37- He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of man.

38- The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the Evil One;

39- the enemy who sowed it, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels.

40- Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time.

41- The Son of man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of falling and all who do evil,

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 13:42-49

42- and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

43- Then the upright will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Anyone who has ears should listen!

44- 'The kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off in his joy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

45- 'Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls;

46- when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

47- 'Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a dragnet that is cast in the sea and brings in a haul of all kinds of fish.

48- When it is full, the fishermen bring it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in baskets and throw away those that are no use.

49- This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the upright,

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 13:50-58

50- to throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

51- 'Have you understood all these?' They said, 'Yes.'

52- And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of Heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom new things as well as old.'

53- When Jesus had finished these parables he left the district;

54- and, coming to his home town, he taught the people in their synagogue in such a way that they were astonished and said, 'Where did the man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?

55- This is the carpenter's son, surely? Is not his mother the woman called Mary, and his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Jude?

56- His sisters, too, are they not all here with us? So where did the man get it all?'

57- And they would not accept him. But Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is despised only in his own country and in his own house,'

58- and he did not work many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 14:1-10

- 1- At that time Herod the tetrarch heard about the reputation of Jesus
- 2- and said to his court, 'This is John the Baptist himself; he has risen from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him.'
- 3- Now it was Herod who had arrested John, chained him up and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife.
- 4- For John had told him, 'It is against the Law for you to have her.'
- 5- He had wanted to kill him but was afraid of the people, who regarded John as a prophet.
- 6- Then, during the celebrations for Herod's birthday, the daughter of Herodias danced before the company and so delighted Herod
- 7- that he promised on oath to give her anything she asked.
- 8- Prompted by her mother she said, 'Give me John the Baptist's head, here, on a dish.'
- 9- The king was distressed but, thinking of the oaths he had sworn and of his guests, he ordered it to be given her,
- 10- and sent and had John beheaded in the prison.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 14:11-19

11- The head was brought in on a dish and given to the girl, who took it to her mother.

12- John's disciples came and took the body and buried it; then they went off to tell Jesus.

13- When Jesus received this news he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the crowds heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot.

14- So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

15- When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.'

16- Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.'

17- But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.'

18- So he said, 'Bring them here to me.'

19- He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples, who gave them to the crowds.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 14:20-28

20- They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps left over, twelve baskets full.

21- Now about five thousand men had eaten, to say nothing of women and children.

22- And at once he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he sent the crowds away.

23- After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

24- while the boat, by now some furlongs from land, was hard pressed by rough waves, for there was a head-wind.

25- In the fourth watch of the night he came towards them, walking on the sea,

26- and when the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. 'It is a ghost,' they said, and cried out in fear.

27- But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It's me! Don't be afraid.'

28- It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said, 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 14:29-36

29- Jesus said, 'Come.' Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water,

30- but then noticing the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord,' he cried, 'save me!'

31- Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'You have so little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?'

32- And as they got into the boat the wind dropped.

33- The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

34- Having made the crossing, they came to land at Gennesaret.

35- When the local people recognised him they spread the news through the whole neighbourhood and took all that were sick to him,

36- begging him just to let them touch the fringe of his cloak. And all those who touched it were saved.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 15:1-9

1- Then Pharisees and scribes from Jerusalem came to Jesus and said,

2- 'Why do your disciples break away from the tradition of the elders? They eat without washing their hands.'

3- He answered, 'And why do you break away from the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?

4- For God said, "Honour your father and your mother" and "Anyone who curses his father or mother will be put to death."

5- But you say, "If anyone says to his father or mother: Anything I might have used to help you is dedicated to God,

6- he is rid of his duty to father or mother." In this way you have made God's word ineffective by means of your tradition.

7- Hypocrites! How rightly Isaiah prophesied about you when he said:

8- This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

9- Their reverence of me is worthless; the lessons they teach are nothing but human commandments.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 15:10-18

10- He called the people to him and said, 'Listen, and understand.'

11- What goes into the mouth does not make anyone unclean; it is what comes out of the mouth that makes someone unclean.'

12- Then the disciples came to him and said, 'Do you know that the Pharisees were shocked when they heard what you said?'

13- He replied, 'Any plant my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots.'

14- Leave them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind; and if one blind person leads another, both will fall into a pit.'

15- At this, Peter said to him, 'Explain the parable for us.'

16- Jesus replied, 'Even you -- don't you yet understand?'

17- Can't you see that whatever goes into the mouth passes through the stomach and is discharged into the sewer?'

18- But whatever comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and it is this that makes someone unclean.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 15:19-27

19- For from the heart come evil intentions: murder, adultery, fornication, theft, perjury, slander.

20- These are the things that make a person unclean. But eating with unwashed hands does not make anyone unclean.'

21- Jesus left that place and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

22- And suddenly out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Lord, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.'

23- But he said not a word in answer to her. And his disciples went and pleaded with him, saying, 'Give her what she wants, because she keeps shouting after us.'

24- He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.'

25- But the woman had come up and was bowing low before him. 'Lord,' she said, 'help me.'

26- He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to little dogs.'

27- She retorted, 'Ah yes, Lord; but even little dogs eat the scraps that fall from their masters' table.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 15:28-35

28- Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your desire be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

29- Jesus went on from there and reached the shores of the Lake of Galilee, and he went up onto the mountain. He took his seat,

30- and large crowds came to him bringing the lame, the crippled, the blind, the dumb and many others; these they put down at his feet, and he cured them.

31- The crowds were astonished to see the dumb speaking, the cripples whole again, the lame walking and the blind with their sight, and they praised the God of Israel.

32- But Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'I feel sorry for all these people; they have been with me for three days now and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them off hungry, or they might collapse on the way.'

33- The disciples said to him, 'Where in a deserted place could we get sufficient bread for such a large crowd to have enough to eat?'

34- Jesus said to them, 'How many loaves have you?' They said, 'Seven, and a few small fish.'

35- Then he instructed the crowd to sit down on the ground,

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 15:36-39

36- and he took the seven loaves and the fish, and after giving thanks he broke them and began handing them to the disciples, who gave them to the crowds.

37- They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected what was left of the scraps, seven baskets full.

38- Now four thousand men had eaten, to say nothing of women and children.

39- And when he had sent the crowds away he got into the boat and went to the territory of Magadan.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 16:1-9

1- The Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to put him to the test they asked if he would show them a sign from heaven.

2- He replied, 'In the evening you say, "It will be fine; there's a red sky,"

3- and in the morning, "Stormy weather today; the sky is red and overcast." You know how to read the face of the sky, but you cannot read the signs of the times.

4- It is an evil and unfaithful generation asking for a sign, and the only sign it will be given is the sign of Jonah.' And he left them and went off.

5- The disciples, having crossed to the other side, had forgotten to take any food.

6- Jesus said to them, 'Keep your eyes open, and be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.'

7- And they said among themselves, 'It is because we have not brought any bread.'

8- Jesus knew it, and he said, 'You have so little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread?'

9- Do you still not understand? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand and the number of baskets you collected?'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 16:10-18

10- Or the seven loaves for the four thousand and the number of baskets you collected?

11- How could you fail to understand that I was not talking about bread? What I said was: Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.'

12- Then they understood that he was telling them to be on their guard, not against yeast for making bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

13- When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of man is?'

14- And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'

15- 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?'

16- Then Simon Peter spoke up and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'

17- Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a blessed man! Because it was no human agency that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.

18- So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my community. And the gates of the underworld can never overpower it.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 16:19-26

19- I will give you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven: whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

20- Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to say to anyone that he was the Christ.

21- From then onwards Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day.

22- Then, taking him aside, Peter started to rebuke him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said, 'this must not happen to you.'

23- But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because you are thinking not as God thinks but as human beings do.'

24- Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.'

25- Anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

26- What, then, will anyone gain by winning the whole world and forfeiting his life? Or what can anyone offer in exchange for his life?

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 16:27-28

27- 'For the Son of man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will reward each one according to his behaviour.

28- In truth I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of man coming with his kingdom.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 17:1-9

1- Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

2- There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as dazzling as light.

3- And suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him.

4- Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said, 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you want me to, I will make three shelters here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.'

5- He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and suddenly from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.'

6- When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear.

7- But Jesus came up and touched them, saying, 'Stand up, do not be afraid.'

8- And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but Jesus.

9- As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about this vision until the Son of man has risen from the dead.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 17:10-18

10- And the disciples put this question to him, 'Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?'

11- He replied, 'Elijah is indeed coming, and he will set everything right again;

12- however, I tell you that Elijah has come already and they did not recognise him but treated him as they pleased; and the Son of man will suffer similarly at their hands.'

13- Then the disciples understood that he was speaking of John the Baptist.

14- As they were rejoining the crowd a man came up to him and went down on his knees before him.

15- 'Lord,' he said, 'take pity on my son: he is demented and in a wretched state; he is always falling into fire and into water.

16- I took him to your disciples and they were unable to cure him.'

17- In reply, Jesus said, 'Faithless and perverse generation! How much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me.'

18- And when Jesus rebuked it the devil came out of the boy, who was cured from that moment.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 17:19-26

19- Then the disciples came privately to Jesus. 'Why were we unable to drive it out?' they asked.

20- He answered, 'Because you have so little faith. In truth I tell you, if your faith is the size of a mustard seed you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move; nothing will be impossible for you.'

21- *

22- When they were together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, 'The Son of man is going to be delivered into the power of men;

23- they will put him to death, and on the third day he will be raised up again.' And a great sadness came over them.

24- When they reached Capernaum, the collectors of the half-shekel came to Peter and said, 'Does your master not pay the half-shekel?'

25- 'Yes,' he replied, and went into the house. But before he could speak, Jesus said, 'Simon, what is your opinion? From whom do earthly kings take toll or tribute? From their sons or from foreigners?'

26- And when he replied, 'From foreigners,' Jesus said, 'Well then, the sons are exempt.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 17:27

27- However, so that we shall not be the downfall of others, go to the lake and cast a hook; take the first fish that rises, open its mouth and there you will find a shekel; take it and give it to them for me and for yourself.'

* [17:21] *Some manuscripts add, "But this kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting"; this is a variant of the better reading of Mk 9:29. (USCCB)*

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 18:1-8

1- At this time the disciples came to Jesus and said, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven?'

2- So he called a little child to him whom he set among them.

3- Then he said, 'In truth I tell you, unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven.

4- And so, the one who makes himself as little as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven.

5- 'Anyone who welcomes one little child like this in my name welcomes me.

6- But anyone who is the downfall of one of these little ones who have faith in me would be better drowned in the depths of the sea with a great millstone round his neck.

7- Alas for the world that there should be such causes of falling! Causes of falling indeed there must be, but alas for anyone who provides them!

8- 'If your hand or your foot should be your downfall, cut it off and throw it away: it is better for you to enter into life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 18:9-16

9- And if your eye should be your downfall, tear it out and throw it away: it is better for you to enter into life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into the hell of fire.

10- 'See that you never despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven are continually in the presence of my Father in heaven.

11- *

12- 'Tell me. Suppose a man has a hundred sheep and one of them strays; will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hillside and go in search of the stray?

13- In truth I tell you, if he finds it, it gives him more joy than do the ninety-nine that did not stray at all.

14- Similarly, it is never the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

15- 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.

16- If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: whatever the misdemeanour, the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain the charge.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 18:17-25

17- But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a gentile or a tax collector.

18- 'In truth I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

19- 'In truth I tell you once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven.

20- For where two or three meet in my name, I am there among them.'

21- Then Peter went up to him and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?'

22- Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.

23- 'And so the kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants.

24- When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents;

25- he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 18:26-32

26- At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet, with the words, "Be patient with me and I will pay the whole sum."

27- And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt.

28- Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow-servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him, saying, "Pay what you owe me."

29- His fellow-servant fell at his feet and appealed to him, saying, "Be patient with me and I will pay you."

30- But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt.

31- His fellow-servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him.

32- Then the master sent for the man and said to him, "You wicked servant, I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me."

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 18:33-35

33- Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow-servant just as I had pity on you?"

34- And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt.

35- And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

** [18:11] Some manuscripts add, "For the Son of Man has come to save what was lost"; cf. Mt 9:13. This is practically identical with Lk 19:10 and is probably a copyist's addition from that source. (USCCB)*

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 19:1-8

1- Jesus had now finished what he wanted to say, and he left Galilee and came into the territory of Judaea on the far side of the Jordan.

2- Large crowds followed him and he healed them there.

3- Some Pharisees approached him, and to put him to the test they said, 'Is it against the Law for a man to divorce his wife on any pretext whatever?'

4- He answered, 'Have you not read that the Creator from the beginning made them male and female

5- and that he said: This is why a man leaves his father and mother and becomes attached to his wife, and the two become one flesh?

6- They are no longer two, therefore, but one flesh. So then, what God has united, human beings must not divide.'

7- They said to him, 'Then why did Moses command that a writ of dismissal should be given in cases of divorce?'

8- He said to them, 'It was because you were so hard-hearted, that Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but it was not like this from the beginning.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 19:9-16

9- Now I say this to you: anyone who divorces his wife -- I am not speaking of an illicit marriage -- and marries another, is guilty of adultery.'

10- The disciples said to him, 'If that is how things are between husband and wife, it is advisable not to marry.'

11- But he replied, 'It is not everyone who can accept what I have said, but only those to whom it is granted.

12- There are eunuchs born so from their mother's womb, there are eunuchs made so by human agency and there are eunuchs who have made themselves so for the sake of the kingdom of Heaven. Let anyone accept this who can.'

13- Then people brought little children to him, for him to lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples scolded them,

14- but Jesus said, 'Let the little children alone, and do not stop them from coming to me; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of Heaven belongs.'

15- Then he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

16- And now a man came to him and asked, 'Master, what good deed must I do to possess eternal life?'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 19:17-24

17- Jesus said to him, 'Why do you ask me about what is good? There is one alone who is good. But if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.'

18- He said, 'Which ones?' Jesus replied, 'These: You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false witness.'

19- Honour your father and your mother. You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

20- The young man said to him, 'I have kept all these. What more do I need to do?'

21- Jesus said, 'If you wish to be perfect, go and sell your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.'

22- But when the young man heard these words he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

23- Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'In truth I tell you, it is hard for someone rich to enter the kingdom of Heaven.'

24- Yes, I tell you again, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for someone rich to enter the kingdom of Heaven.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 19:25-30

25- When the disciples heard this they were astonished. 'Who can be saved, then?' they said.

26- Jesus gazed at them. 'By human resources', he told them, 'this is impossible; for God everything is possible.'

27- Then Peter answered and said, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What are we to have, then?'

28- Jesus said to them, 'In truth I tell you, when everything is made new again and the Son of man is seated on his throne of glory, you yourselves will sit on twelve thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel.'

29- And everyone who has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children or land for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times as much, and also inherit eternal life.

30- 'Many who are first will be last, and the last, first.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 20:1-8

1- 'Now the kingdom of Heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard.

2- He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day and sent them to his vineyard.

3- Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place

4- and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage."

5- So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same.

6- Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing around, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?"

7- "Because no one has hired us," they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too."

8- In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first."

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 20:9-17

9- So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each.

10- When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each.

11- They took it, but grumbled at the landowner saying,

12- "The men who came last have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat."

13- He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius?"

14- Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the lastcomer as much as I pay you.

15- Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why should you be envious because I am generous?"

16- Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

17- Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, and on the road he took the Twelve aside by themselves and said to them,

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 20:18-25

18- 'Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of man is about to be handed over to the chief priests and scribes. They will condemn him to death

19- and will hand him over to the gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised up again.'

20- Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came with her sons to make a request of him, and bowed low;

21- and he said to her, 'What is it you want?' She said to him, 'Promise that these two sons of mine may sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your kingdom.'

22- Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?' They replied, 'We can.'

23- He said to them, 'Very well; you shall drink my cup, but as for seats at my right hand and my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted by my Father.'

24- When the other ten heard this they were indignant with the two brothers.

25- But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that among the gentiles the rulers lord it over them, and great men make their authority felt.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 20:26-34

26- Among you this is not to happen. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant,

27- and anyone who wants to be first among you must be your slave,

28- just as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

29- As they left Jericho a large crowd followed him.

30- And now there were two blind men sitting at the side of the road. When they heard that it was Jesus who was passing by, they shouted, 'Lord! Have pity on us, son of David.'

31- And the crowd scolded them and told them to keep quiet, but they only shouted the louder, 'Lord! Have pity on us, son of David.'

32- Jesus stopped, called them over and said, 'What do you want me to do for you?'

33- They said to him, 'Lord, let us have our sight back.'

34- Jesus felt pity for them and touched their eyes, and at once their sight returned and they followed him.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 21:1-8

1- When they were near Jerusalem and had come to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples,

2- saying to them, 'Go to the village facing you, and you will at once find a tethered donkey and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me.

3- If anyone says anything to you, you are to say, "The Master needs them and will send them back at once." '

4- This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet:

5- Say to the daughter of Zion: Look, your king is approaching, humble and riding on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.

6- So the disciples went and did as Jesus had told them.

7- They brought the donkey and the colt, then they laid their cloaks on their backs and he took his seat on them.

8- Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in his path.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 21:9-15

9- The crowds who went in front of him and those who followed were all shouting: Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is he who is coming in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens!

10- And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil as people asked, 'Who is this?'

11- and the crowds answered, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

12- Jesus then went into the Temple and drove out all those who were selling and buying there; he upset the tables of the money-changers and the seats of the dove-sellers.

13- He said to them, 'According to scripture, my house will be called a house of prayer; but you are turning it into a bandits' den.'

14- There were also blind and lame people who came to him in the Temple, and he cured them.

15- At the sight of the wonderful things he did and of the children shouting, 'Hosanna to the son of David' in the Temple, the chief priests and the scribes were indignant and said to him,

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 21:16-23

16- 'Do you hear what they are saying?' Jesus answered, 'Yes. Have you never read this: By the mouths of children, babes in arms, you have made sure of praise?'

17- With that he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

18- As he was returning to the city in the early morning, he felt hungry.

19- Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it and found nothing on it but leaves. And he said to it, 'May you never bear fruit again,' and instantly the fig tree withered.

20- The disciples were amazed when they saw it and said, 'How is it that the fig tree withered instantly?'

21- Jesus answered, 'In truth I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt at all, not only will you do what I have done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, "Be pulled up and thrown into the sea," it will be done.

22- And if you have faith, everything you ask for in prayer, you will receive.'

23- He had gone into the Temple and was teaching, when the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him and said, 'What authority have you for acting like this? And who gave you this authority?'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 21:24-30

24- In reply Jesus said to them, 'And I will ask you a question, just one; if you tell me the answer to it, then I will tell you my authority for acting like this.'

25- John's baptism: what was its origin, heavenly or human?' And they argued this way among themselves, 'If we say heavenly, he will retort to us, "Then why did you refuse to believe him?";

26- but if we say human, we have the people to fear, for they all hold that John was a prophet.'

27- So their reply to Jesus was, 'We do not know.' And he retorted to them, 'Nor will I tell you my authority for acting like this.'

28- 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, go and work in the vineyard today."

29- He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went.

30- The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 21:31-38

31- Which of the two did the father's will?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'In truth I tell you, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.

32- For John came to you, showing the way of uprightness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.

33- 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad.

34- When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce.

35- But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third.

36- Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way.

37- Finally he sent his son to them thinking, "They will respect my son."

38- But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance."

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 21:39-46

39- So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

40- Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?'

41- They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him at the proper time.'

42- Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this is the Lord's doing and we marvel at it?'

43- 'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

44- *

45- When they heard his parables, the chief priests and the scribes realised he was speaking about them,

46- but though they would have liked to arrest him they were afraid of the crowds, who looked on him as a prophet.

* [21:44] *The majority of textual witnesses omit this verse. It is probably an early addition to Matthew from Lk 20:18 with which it is practically identical. (USCCB)*

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 22:1-9

- 1- Jesus began to speak to them in parables once again,
- 2- 'The kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding.
- 3- He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come.
- 4- Next he sent some more servants with the words, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, my banquet is all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding."
- 5- But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business,
- 6- and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them.
- 7- The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town.
- 8- Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy,
- 9- go to the main crossroads and invite everyone you can find to come to the wedding."

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 22:10-17

10- So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11- When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment,

12- and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent.

13- Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him into the darkness outside, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

14- For many are invited but not all are chosen.'

15- Then the Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap him in what he said.

16- And they sent their disciples to him, together with some Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in all honesty, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because human rank means nothing to you.

17- Give us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 22:18-26

18- But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why are you putting me to the test?

19- Show me the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius,

20- and he said, 'Whose portrait is this? Whose title?'

21- They replied, 'Caesar's.' Then he said to them, 'Very well, pay Caesar what belongs to Caesar -- and God what belongs to God.'

22- When they heard this they were amazed; they left him alone and went away.

23- That day some Sadducees -- who deny that there is a resurrection -- approached him and they put this question to him,

24- 'Master, Moses said that if a man dies childless, his brother is to marry the widow, his sister-in-law, to raise children for his brother.

25- Now we had a case involving seven brothers; the first married and then died without children, leaving his wife to his brother;

26- the same thing happened with the second and third and so on to the seventh,

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 22:27-35

27- and then last of all the woman herself died.

28- Now at the resurrection, whose wife among the seven will she be, since she had been married to them all?'

29- Jesus answered them, 'You are wrong, because you understand neither the scriptures nor the power of God.

30- For at the resurrection men and women do not marry; no, they are like the angels in heaven.

31- And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you never read what God himself said to you:

32- I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob? He is God, not of the dead, but of the living.'

33- And his teaching made a deep impression on the people who heard it.

34- But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees they got together

35- and, to put him to the test, one of them put a further question,

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 22:36-46

36- 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?'

37- Jesus said to him, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

38- This is the greatest and the first commandment.

39- The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself.

40- On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets too.'

41- While the Pharisees were gathered round, Jesus put to them this question,

42- 'What is your opinion about the Christ? Whose son is he?' They told him, 'David's.'

43- He said to them, 'Then how is it that David, moved by the Spirit, calls him Lord, where he says:

44- The Lord declared to my Lord, take your seat at my right hand, till I have made your enemies your footstool?

45- 'If David calls him Lord, how then can he be his son?'

46- No one could think of anything to say in reply, and from that day no one dared to ask him any further questions.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 23:1-9

- 1- Then addressing the crowds and his disciples Jesus said,
- 2- 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses.
- 3- You must therefore do and observe what they tell you; but do not be guided by what they do, since they do not practise what they preach.
- 4- They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on people's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they!
- 5- Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader headbands and longer tassels,
- 6- like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues,
- 7- being greeted respectfully in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.
- 8- 'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers.
- 9- You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 23:10-17

10- Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ.

11- The greatest among you must be your servant.

12- Anyone who raises himself up will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be raised up.

13- 'Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut up the kingdom of Heaven in people's faces, neither going in yourselves nor allowing others to go who want to.

14- *

15- 'Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over sea and land to make a single proselyte, and anyone who becomes one you make twice as fit for hell as you are.

16- 'Alas for you, blind guides! You say, "If anyone swears by the Temple, it has no force; but anyone who swears by the gold of the Temple is bound."

17- Fools and blind! For which is of greater value, the gold or the Temple that makes the gold sacred?

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 23:18-25

18- Again, "If anyone swears by the altar it has no force; but anyone who swears by the offering on the altar, is bound."

19- You blind men! For which is of greater worth, the offering or the altar that makes the offering sacred?

20- Therefore, someone who swears by the altar is swearing by that and by everything on it.

21- And someone who swears by the Temple is swearing by that and by the One who dwells in it.

22- And someone who swears by heaven is swearing by the throne of God and by the One who is seated there.

23- 'Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You pay your tithe of mint and dill and cummin and have neglected the weightier matters of the Law-justice, mercy, good faith! These you should have practised, those not neglected.

24- You blind guides, straining out gnats and swallowing camels!

25- 'Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of cup and dish and leave the inside full of extortion and intemperance.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 23:26-33

26- Blind Pharisee! Clean the inside of cup and dish first so that it and the outside are both clean.

27- 'Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs that look handsome on the outside, but inside are full of the bones of the dead and every kind of corruption.

28- In just the same way, from the outside you look upright, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

29- 'Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build the sepulchres of the prophets and decorate the tombs of the upright,

30- saying, "We would never have joined in shedding the blood of the prophets, had we lived in our ancestors' day."

31- So! Your own evidence tells against you! You are the children of those who murdered the prophets!

32- Very well then, finish off the work that your ancestors began.

33- 'You serpents, brood of vipers, how can you escape being condemned to hell?

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 23:34-39

34- This is why -- look -- I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some you will slaughter and crucify, some you will scourge in your synagogues and hunt from town to town;

35- and so you will draw down on yourselves the blood of every upright person that has been shed on earth, from the blood of Abel the holy to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.

36- In truth I tell you, it will all recoil on this generation.

37- 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you that kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you refused!

38- Look! Your house will be deserted,

39- for, I promise, you shall not see me any more until you are saying: Blessed is he who is coming in the name of the Lord!

** [23:14] Some manuscripts add a verse here or after Mt 23:12, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext, recite lengthy prayers. Because of this, you will receive a very severe condemnation." Cf. Mk 12:40; Lk 20:47. This "woe" is almost identical with Mk 12:40 and seems to be an interpolation derived from that text. (USCCB)*

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 24:1-8

1- Jesus left the Temple, and as he was going away his disciples came up to draw his attention to the Temple buildings.

2- He said to them in reply, 'You see all these? In truth I tell you, not a single stone here will be left on another: everything will be pulled down.'

3- And while he was sitting on the Mount of Olives the disciples came and asked him when they were by themselves, 'Tell us, when is this going to happen, and what sign will there be of your coming and of the end of the world?'

4- And Jesus answered them, 'Take care that no one deceives you,

5- because many will come using my name and saying, "I am the Christ," and they will deceive many.

6- You will hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for this is something that must happen, but the end will not be yet.

7- For nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

8- All this is only the beginning of the birthpangs.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 24:9-18

9- 'Then you will be handed over to be tortured and put to death; and you will be hated by all nations on account of my name.

10- And then many will fall away; people will betray one another and hate one another.

11- Many false prophets will arise; they will deceive many,

12- and with the increase of lawlessness, love in most people will grow cold;

13- but anyone who stands firm to the end will be saved.

14- 'This good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed to the whole world as evidence to the nations. And then the end will come.

15- 'So when you see the appalling abomination, of which the prophet Daniel spoke, set up in the holy place (let the reader understand),

16- then those in Judaea must escape to the mountains;

17- if anyone is on the housetop, he must not come down to collect his belongings from the house;

18- if anyone is in the fields, he must not turn back to fetch his cloak.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 24:19-27

19- Alas for those with child, or with babies at the breast, when those days come!

20- Pray that you will not have to make your escape in winter or on a Sabbath.

21- For then there will be great distress, unparalleled since the world began, and such as will never be again.

22- And if that time had not been shortened, no human being would have survived; but shortened that time shall be, for the sake of those who are chosen.

23- 'If anyone says to you then, "Look, here is the Christ," or "Over here," do not believe it;

24- for false Christs and false prophets will arise and provide great signs and portents, enough to deceive even the elect, if that were possible.

25- Look! I have given you warning.

26- 'If, then, they say to you, "Look, he is in the desert," do not go there; "Look, he is in some hiding place," do not believe it;

27- because the coming of the Son of man will be like lightning striking in the east and flashing far into the west.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 24:28-35

28- Wherever the corpse is, that is where the vultures will gather.

29- 'Immediately after the distress of those days the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30- And then the sign of the Son of man will appear in heaven; then, too, all the peoples of the earth will beat their breasts; and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31- And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet to gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

32- 'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.

33- So with you when you see all these things: know that he is near, right at the gates.

34- In truth I tell you, before this generation has passed away, all these things will have taken place.

35- Sky and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 24:36-44

36- But as for that day and hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, no one but the Father alone.

37- 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of man comes.

38- For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark,

39- and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept them all away. This is what it will be like when the Son of man comes.

40- Then of two men in the fields, one is taken, one left;

41- of two women grinding at the mill, one is taken, one left.

42- 'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming.

43- You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house.

44- Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 24:45-51

45- 'Who, then, is the wise and trustworthy servant whom the master placed over his household to give them their food at the proper time?

46- Blessed that servant if his master's arrival finds him doing exactly that.

47- In truth I tell you, he will put him in charge of everything he owns.

48- But if the servant is dishonest and says to himself, "My master is taking his time,"

49- and sets about beating his fellow-servants and eating and drinking with drunkards,

50- his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know.

51- The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 25:1-10

1- 'Then the kingdom of Heaven will be like this: Ten wedding attendants took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.

2- Five of them were foolish and five were sensible:

3- the foolish ones, though they took their lamps, took no oil with them,

4- whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps.

5- The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep.

6- But at midnight there was a cry, "Look! The bridegroom! Go out and meet him."

7- Then all those wedding attendants woke up and trimmed their lamps,

8- and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out."

9- But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves."

10- They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 25:11-19

11- The other attendants arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us."

12- But he replied, "In truth I tell you, I do not know you."

13- So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.

14- 'It is like a man about to go abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them.

15- To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one, each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out on his journey.

16- The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more.

17- The man who had received two made two more in the same way.

18- But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19- Now a long time afterwards, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 25:20-26

20- The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir, he said, "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made."

21- His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have shown you are trustworthy in small things; I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

22- Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said, "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made."

23- His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have shown you are trustworthy in small things; I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

24- Last came forward the man who had the single talent. "Sir," said he, "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you had not sown and gathering where you had not scattered;

25- so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back."

26- But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered?"

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 25:27-34

27- Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have got my money back with interest.

28- So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the ten talents.

29- For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but anyone who has not, will be deprived even of what he has.

30- As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him into the darkness outside, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

31- 'When the Son of man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory.

32- All nations will be assembled before him and he will separate people one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats.

33- He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

34- Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take as your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 25:35-42

35- For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome,

36- lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me."

37- Then the upright will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?"

38- When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and clothe you?"

39- When did we find you sick or in prison and go to see you?"

40- And the King will answer, "In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

41- Then he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

42- For I was hungry and you never gave me food, I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink,

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 25:43-46

43- I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, lacking clothes and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me."

44- Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or lacking clothes, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?"

45- Then he will answer, "In truth I tell you, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me."

46- And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the upright to eternal life.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 26:1-9

1- Jesus had now finished all he wanted to say, and he told his disciples,

2- 'It will be Passover, as you know, in two days' time, and the Son of man will be handed over to be crucified.'

3- Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas,

4- and made plans to arrest Jesus by some trick and have him put to death.

5- They said, however, 'It must not be during the festivities; there must be no disturbance among the people.'

6- Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon, a man who had suffered from a virulent skin-disease, when

7- a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive ointment, and poured it on his head as he was at table.

8- When they saw this, the disciples said indignantly, 'Why this waste?

9- This could have been sold for a high price and the money given the poor.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 26:10-18

10- But Jesus noticed this and said, 'Why are you upsetting the woman? What she has done for me is indeed a good work!

11- You have the poor with you always, but you will not always have me.

12- When she poured this ointment on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial.

13- In truth I tell you, wherever in all the world this gospel is proclaimed, what she has done will be told as well, in remembrance of her.'

14- Then one of the Twelve, the man called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests

15- and said, 'What are you prepared to give me if I hand him over to you?' They paid him thirty silver pieces,

16- and from then onwards he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

17- Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus to say, 'Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?'

18- He said, 'Go to a certain man in the city and say to him, "The Master says: My time is near. It is at your house that I am keeping Passover with my disciples." '

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 26:19-27

19- The disciples did what Jesus told them and prepared the Passover.

20- When evening came he was at table with the Twelve.

21- And while they were eating he said, 'In truth I tell you, one of you is about to betray me.'

22- They were greatly distressed and started asking him in turn, 'Not me, Lord, surely?'

23- He answered, 'Someone who has dipped his hand into the dish with me will betray me.'

24- The Son of man is going to his fate, as the scriptures say he will, but alas for that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! Better for that man if he had never been born!

25- Judas, who was to betray him, asked in his turn, 'Not me, Rabbi, surely?' Jesus answered, 'It is you who say it.'

26- Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to the disciples. 'Take it and eat,' he said, 'this is my body.'

27- Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he handed it to them saying, 'Drink from this, all of you,

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 26:28-36

28- for this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

29- From now on, I tell you, I shall never again drink wine until the day I drink the new wine with you in the kingdom of my Father.'

30- After the psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives.

31- Then Jesus said to them, 'You will all fall away from me tonight, for the scripture says: I shall strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered,

32- but after my resurrection I shall go ahead of you to Galilee.'

33- At this, Peter said to him, 'Even if all fall away from you, I will never fall away.'

34- Jesus answered him, 'In truth I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will have disowned me three times.'

35- Peter said to him, 'Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.' And all the disciples said the same.

36- Then Jesus came with them to a plot of land called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Stay here while I go over there to pray.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 26:37-44

37- He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with him. And he began to feel sadness and anguish.

38- Then he said to them, 'My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here and stay awake with me.'

39- And going on a little further he fell on his face and prayed. 'My Father,' he said, 'if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. Nevertheless, let it be as you, not I, would have it.'

40- He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, 'So you had not the strength to stay awake with me for one hour?'

41- Stay awake, and pray not to be put to the test. The spirit is willing enough, but human nature is weak.'

42- Again, a second time, he went away and prayed: 'My Father,' he said, 'if this cup cannot pass by, but I must drink it, your will be done!'

43- And he came back again and found them sleeping, their eyes were so heavy.

44- Leaving them there, he went away again and prayed for the third time, repeating the same words.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 26:45-52

45- Then he came back to the disciples and said to them, 'You can sleep on now and have your rest. Look, the hour has come when the Son of man is to be betrayed into the hands of sinners.'

46- Get up! Let us go! Look, my betrayer is not far away.'

47- And suddenly while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared, and with him a large number of men armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and elders of the people.

48- Now the traitor had arranged a sign with them saying, 'The one I kiss, he is the man. Arrest him.'

49- So he went up to Jesus at once and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi,' and kissed him.

50- Jesus said to him, 'My friend, do what you are here for.' Then they came forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.

51- And suddenly, one of the followers of Jesus grasped his sword and drew it; he struck the high priest's servant and cut off his ear.

52- Jesus then said, 'Put your sword back, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 26:53-60

53- Or do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, who would promptly send more than twelve legions of angels to my defence?

54- But then, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this is the way it must be?

55- It was at this time that Jesus said to the crowds, 'Am I a bandit, that you had to set out to capture me with swords and clubs? I sat teaching in the Temple day after day and you never laid a hand on me.'

56- Now all this happened to fulfil the prophecies in scripture. Then all the disciples deserted him and ran away.

57- The men who had arrested Jesus led him off to the house of Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

58- Peter followed him at a distance right to the high priest's palace, and he went in and sat down with the attendants to see what the end would be.

59- The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus, however false, on which they might have him executed.

60- But they could not find any, though several lying witnesses came forward. Eventually two came forward

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 26:61-68

61- and made a statement, 'This man said, "I have power to destroy the Temple of God and in three days build it up." '

62- The high priest then rose and said to him, 'Have you no answer to that? What is this evidence these men are bringing against you?'

63- But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him, 'I put you on oath by the living God to tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.'

64- Jesus answered him, 'It is you who say it. But, I tell you that from this time onward you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.'

65- Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'He has blasphemed. What need of witnesses have we now? There! You have just heard the blasphemy.'

66- What is your opinion?' They answered, 'He deserves to die.'

67- Then they spat in his face and hit him with their fists; others said as they struck him,

68- 'Prophecy to us, Christ! Who hit you then?'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 26:69-75

69- Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant-girl came up to him saying, 'You, too, were with Jesus the Galilean.'

70- But he denied it in front of them all. 'I do not know what you are talking about,' he said.

71- When he went out to the gateway another servant-girl saw him and said to the people there, 'This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.'

72- And again, with an oath, he denied it, 'I do not know the man.'

73- A little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter, 'You are certainly one of them too! Why, your accent gives you away.'

74- Then he started cursing and swearing, 'I do not know the man.' And at once the cock crowed,

75- and Peter remembered what Jesus had said, 'Before the cock crows you will have disowned me three times.' And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 27:1-8

- 1- When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people met in council to bring about the death of Jesus.
- 2- They had him bound and led him away to hand him over to Pilate, the governor.
- 3- When he found that Jesus had been condemned, then Judas, his betrayer, was filled with remorse and took the thirty silver pieces back to the chief priests and elders
- 4- saying, 'I have sinned. I have betrayed innocent blood.' They replied, 'What is that to us? That is your concern.'
- 5- And flinging down the silver pieces in the sanctuary he made off, and went and hanged himself.
- 6- The chief priests picked up the silver pieces and said, 'It is against the Law to put this into the treasury; it is blood-money.'
- 7- So they discussed the matter and with it bought the potter's field as a graveyard for foreigners,
- 8- and this is why the field is still called the Field of Blood.,

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 27:9-16

9- The word spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was then fulfilled: And they took the thirty silver pieces, the sum at which the precious One was priced by the children of Israel,

10- and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord directed me.

11- Jesus, then, was brought before the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.'

12- But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all.

13- Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have made against you?'

14- But to the governor's amazement, he offered not a word in answer to any of the charges.

15- At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose.

16- Now there was then a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 27:17-23

17- So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?'

18- For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

19- Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that upright man; I have been extremely upset today by a dream that I had about him.'

20- The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus.

21- So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said, 'Barabbas.'

22- Pilate said to them, 'But in that case, what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!'

23- He asked, 'But what harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 27:24-31

24- Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.'

25- And the people, every one of them, shouted back, 'Let his blood be on us and on our children!'

26- Then he released Barabbas for them. After having Jesus scourged he handed him over to be crucified.

27- Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him.

28- And they stripped him and put a scarlet cloak round him,

29- and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!'

30- And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it.

31- And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucifixion.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 27:32-40

32- On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, called Simon, and enlisted him to carry his cross.

33- When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull,

34- they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink.

35- When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots,

36- and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

37- Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

38- Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

39- The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads

40- and said, 'So you would destroy the Temple and in three days rebuild it! Then save yourself if you are God's son and come down from the cross!'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 27:41-49

41- The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way,

42- with the words, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.'

43- He has put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am God's son." '

44- Even the bandits who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

45- From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.

46- And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

47- When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,'

48- and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he filled with vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink.

49- But the rest of them said, 'Wait! And see if Elijah will come to save him.'

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 27:50-57

50- But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

51- And suddenly, the veil of the Sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom, the earth quaked, the rocks were split,

52- the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy people rose from the dead,

53- and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the holy city and appeared to a number of people.

54- The centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this man was son of God.'

55- And many women were there, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and looked after him.

56- Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

57- When it was evening, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, called Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 27:58-66

58- This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be handed over.

59- So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean shroud

60- and put it in his own new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a large stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away.

61- Now Mary of Magdala and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the sepulchre.

62- Next day, that is, when Preparation Day was over, the chief priests and the Pharisees went in a body to Pilate

63- and said to him, 'Your Excellency, we recall that this impostor said, while he was still alive, "After three days I shall rise again."

64- Therefore give the order to have the sepulchre kept secure until the third day, for fear his disciples come and steal him away and tell the people, "He has risen from the dead." This last piece of fraud would be worse than what went before.'

65- Pilate said to them, 'You may have your guard; go and make all as secure as you know how.'

66- So they went and made the sepulchre secure, putting seals on the stone and mounting a guard.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 28:1-8

1- After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre.

2- And suddenly there was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it.

3- His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow.

4- The guards were so shaken by fear of him that they were like dead men.

5- But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

6- He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay,

7- then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going ahead of you to Galilee; that is where you will see him." Look! I have told you.'

8- Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 28:9-16

9- And suddenly, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, clasping his feet, they did him homage.

10- Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; there they will see me.'

11- Now while they were on their way, some of the guards went off into the city to tell the chief priests all that had happened.

12- These held a meeting with the elders and, after some discussion, handed a considerable sum of money to the soldiers

13- with these instructions, 'This is what you must say, "His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep."

14- And should the governor come to hear of this, we undertake to put things right with him ourselves and to see that you do not get into trouble.'

15- So they took the money and carried out their instructions, and to this day that is the story among the Jews.

16- Meanwhile the eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them.

Notes:

Matthew - Chapter 28:17-20

17- When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated.

18- Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19- Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20- and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

Notes: