

# Matthew

Title: Matthew writes Jesus' genealogy.

Matthew 1:1 This genealogy is the genealogy of Jesus Christ. Jesus was a descendant of David <<, who was the king of Israel,>> and a descendant of Abraham <<, who was the Jews' ancestor>>.

Footnote: The Greek word 'Christ' is like the Hebrew word 'Messiah'. These words mean 'the person that God anointed to become the leader who saved his people'.

Matthew 1:2 Abraham was Isaac's father. Isaac was Jacob's father. And Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

Matthew 1:3 Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah. The mother of Perez and Zerah was Tamar. Perez was Hezron's father. And Hezron was Ram's father.

Matthew 1:4 Ram was Amminadab's father. Amminadab was Nahshon's father. And Nahshon was Salmon's father.

Matthew 1:5 Salmon was Boaz's father. Boaz's mother was Rahab. Boaz was Obed's father. Obed's mother was Ruth. Obed was Jesse's father.

Matthew 1:6 And Jesse was the father of David, who later became the king of Israel. David was Solomon's father. Previously Solomon's mother <<Bathsheba>> was Uriah's wife.

Matthew 1:7 Solomon was Rehoboam's father. Rehoboam was Abijah's father. And Abijah was Asa's father.

Matthew 1:8 Asa was Jehoshaphat's father. Jehoshaphat was Jehoram's father. And Jehoram was Uzziah's father.

Matthew 1:9 Uzziah was Jotham's father. Jotham was Ahaz's father. And Ahaz was Hezekiah's father.

Matthew 1:10 Hezekiah was Manasseh's father. Manasseh was Amon's father. And Amon was Josiah's father.

Matthew 1:11 Primary: Josiah was the father of Jeconiah and his brothers. Alternate 1: Josiah was Jeconiah and his brothers' grandfather. End of Alternates. In those days <<the nation named>> Babylon exiled the Jews to Babylon.

Matthew 1:12 After Babylon exiled those Jews to Babylon, Jeconiah was Shealtiel's father. Primary: And Shealtiel was Zerubbabel's father. Alternate 1: And Shealtiel was Zerubbabel's grandfather.

Matthew 1:13 Primary: Zerubbabel was Abihud's father. Alternate 1: Zerubbabel was Abihud's grandfather. End of Alternates. Abihud was Eliakim's father. And Eliakim was Azor's father.

Matthew 1:14 Azor was Zadok's father. Zadok was Akim's father. And Akim was Elihud's father.

Matthew 1:15 Elihud was Eleazar's father. Eleazar was Matthan's father. And Matthan was Jacob's father.

Matthew 1:16 And Jacob was the father of Joseph, who was Mary's husband. And Mary gave birth to Jesus, whom people call 'Christ'. <<People call Jesus 'Christ' because God chose Jesus to save his people.>>

Matthew 1:17 So there were 14 generations between Abraham and David. And there were 14 generations between David and the time when Babylon exiled the Jews to Babylon. And there were 14 generations between the time when Babylon exiled the Jews to Babylon and the Christ.

Title: Jesus Christ is born.

Matthew 1:18 Literal Alternate: This part of this book describes the things that happened when Jesus Christ was born. Dynamic Alternate: These things happened at the time when Jesus Christ was born. End of Alternates. There was an agreement so that Mary, who will become Jesus' mother, and Joseph would marry each other. But before Mary and Joseph married each other, the Holy Spirit caused her to become pregnant.

Matthew 1:19 Mary's husband named Joseph was a righteous man. <<Joseph thought that Mary was pregnant because she slept with another man.>> He didn't want to publicly cause Mary to feel ashamed. So he planned to end his relationship with Mary secretly.

Footnote: In those days people thought that a man shouldn't marry a woman who already slept with other men.

Matthew 1:20 But after Joseph thought about these things, the Lord's angel suddenly appeared to him in a dream. And that angel said to Joseph, "Joseph, King David's son, don't be afraid to marry Mary. <<That action won't be bad.>> Literal Alternate: For the child who is in Mary is from the Holy Spirit. Dynamic Alternate: For the Holy Spirit caused the child to grow in Mary. End of Alternates. <<A man didn't cause Mary to become pregnant.>>

Matthew 1:21 Mary will give birth to a son. And you'll name that son Jesus. For that son will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:22 All of these things happened so that the things that the Lord said through the prophet would be fulfilled.

Footnote: That prophet was Isaiah.

Matthew 1:23 That prophet said, "Behold. A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son. And people will call that son 'Immanuel'." ('Immanuel' means in Hebrew, "God is with us.")

Matthew 1:24 Then Joseph woke up and did the thing that the Lord's angel commanded him to do. He married Mary.

Matthew 1:25 But Joseph didn't sleep with Mary until she gave birth to a son. Then Joseph named that son Jesus.

Title: Wise men visit Jesus.

Matthew 2:1 While King Herod was ruling the people of Judea, Jesus was born there in <<the town named>> Bethlehem. <<People called that Herod 'great Herod'.>> Behold! After Jesus was born, wise men traveled from an eastern region to <<the city named>> Jerusalem. <<They studied the stars to understand the things that were happening.>>

Matthew 2:2 Those wise men asked the people who were in Jerusalem, Primary: "Where is the king of the Jews who recently was born? Alternate 1: "Where is the person who recently was born and will become the king of the Jews? End of Alternates. Primary: In the eastern region we saw that king's star. Alternate 1: When that star rose, we saw it. End of Alternates. <<And that star showed us that that king was born.>> So we came to worship that king."

Matthew 2:3 When King Herod heard about those things <<that those wise men were asking people about>>, he became troubled. <<He didn't want another king to replace him.>> And all of the people who were in Jerusalem also became troubled <<because they thought that Herod will become very angry>>.

Matthew 2:4 Herod called all of the chief priests and all of the Scribes and asked them to tell him about the place where the Christ will be born.

Matthew 2:5 Those priests and those Scribes answered Herod, "The Christ will be born in Bethlehem, which is in Judea. A prophet wrote many years ago,

Matthew 2:6 Literal Alternate: 'But you, Bethlehem, which is in the land of Judah, you aren't the least important among the rulers of Judah. Dynamic Alternate: 'But you, Bethlehem, which is in the land of Judah, you're very important among the rulers of Judah. End of Alternates. For a ruler who will lead my people will come from you.'"

Footnote: That prophet was Micah. See Micah 5:1.

Matthew 2:7 <<After Herod heard those things from the priests and the Scribes,>> he called those wise men secretly. And he learned from those wise men the time when the star appeared. <<He wanted to know that child's age.>>

Matthew 2:8 And Herod sent those wise men to Bethlehem and said to them, "Go. And search carefully for that child <<who will become the king of the Jews>>. After you find that child, come immediately <<to me>>. And tell me about the place where that child is so that I also could go there to worship him."

Matthew 2:9 After those wise men heard the things that King Herod said, they continued traveling. And behold! The star that those wise men saw in the eastern region went in front of them until that star stopped moving over the place where that child was in Bethlehem.

Matthew 2:10 When those wise men saw that star, they became extremely joyful.

Matthew 2:11 <<That star helped those wise men find the place where that child was.>> After those wise men entered the house, they saw the child and his mother Mary. Then they bowed immediately and worshiped that child. Then they opened their boxes that contained extremely valuable things. <<They brought those extremely valuable things for that child.>> Then they gave the child gifts that were gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Footnote: Frankincense is a very valuable incense. Footnote: Myrrh is a very expensive oil.

Matthew 2:12 Then those wise men returned to their country on a different road because they were warned about Herod. They were told in a dream that they must not return to Herod.

Title: Joseph escapes to <<the country named>> Egypt with his family.

Matthew 2:13 Behold! After the wise men left, the Lord's angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. That angel said to Joseph, "Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay in Egypt until I tell you <<that you should return to Israel>>. For Herod's soldiers will search for this child to kill this child."

Matthew 2:14 So Joseph got up. During that night he took that child and his mother and started traveling to Egypt with them.

Matthew 2:15 Joseph and his family stayed in Egypt until Herod died. So the things that previously the Lord said through the prophet were fulfilled. That prophet said, "I called my son so that he would come out from Egypt."

Footnote: That prophet was Hosea. See Hosea 11:1.

Matthew 2:16 When Herod realized that the wise men deceived him, he became extremely angry. So he commanded his soldiers to kill all of the boys who were two years old or younger in the region of Bethlehem. Previously he learned from those wise men about the time when that child was born.

Matthew 2:17 And so the things that were said through the prophet named Jeremiah were fulfilled.

Matthew 2:18 Jeremiah said, "A voice is heard in <<the town named>> Ramah. That voice is weeping and is mourning greatly. It's Rachel's descendants who because of their children, are weeping. Rachel's descendants refuse to be comforted because their children are dead."

Footnote: Rachel was a wife of Jacob, who was the twelve tribes of Israel's father. Footnote: See Jeremiah 31:15.

Title: Joseph and his family return to Nazareth.

Matthew 2:19 After Herod died, the Lord's angel appeared to Joseph in a dream while he still was in Egypt.

Matthew 2:20 That angel said to Joseph, "Get up. Take the child and his mother and go to Israel. For the people who were trying to kill that child are dead."

Matthew 2:21 So Joseph got up and took the child and his mother. Then Joseph, the child, and the child's mother went to Israel.

Matthew 2:22 <<Joseph wanted to live in Judea.>> But when Joseph heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. He was warned in a dream <<that he shouldn't go there>>. So Joseph and his family went to the province named Galilee <<instead of returning to Judea>>.

Matthew 2:23 After Joseph and his family came to Galilee, they lived in a town named Nazareth. And so the things that were said by God through the prophets were fulfilled. Those prophets said that Jesus will be called 'a person who comes from Nazareth'.

Title: John the Baptist prepares a path for Jesus.

Matthew 3:1 <<Many years passed.>> Then John the Baptist came to preach God's message <<to people>> in the wilderness that was in Judea. <<Jesus still was in Nazareth.>>

Matthew 3:2 And John the Baptist said to people, "Repent. For the kingdom of heaven is near you."

Matthew 3:3 John the Baptist was the person that God talked about through the prophet named Isaiah. Isaiah said, "A voice is shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the path for the Lord. Make straight paths for the Lord.'"

Footnote: See Isaiah 40:3.

Matthew 3:4 <<John wore clothes that were like the clothes that poor people and prophets wore.>> He wore clothes made of camels' hairs and wore a leather belt around his waist. <<He ate only food that he found in the wilderness.>> He ate locusts and wild honey.

Matthew 3:5 People went from Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all of the regions that were near the Jordan River to John.

Matthew 3:6 Those people confessed that they sinned. Then they were baptized in the Jordan River by John.

Matthew 3:7 Primary: John saw many Pharisees and many Sadducees who were coming so that he would baptize them. Alternate 1: John saw many Pharisees and many Sadducees who were coming to the place where he was baptizing people. End of Alternates. He said to those Pharisees and Sadducees, "You, vipers' children, who warned you to escape from God's wrath6:28?"

Footnote: John was saying that those Pharisees and Sadducees were dangerous like vipers are dangerous.

Matthew 3:8 Literal Alternate: Produce fruit that shows people that you repented. Dynamic Alternate: Do good things that show people that you repented.

Matthew 3:9 And don't think that you're able to say to yourselves, 'Abraham is our father. <<Therefore, God won't punish us.' Look at these stones.>> I tell you that God is able to create Abraham's children from these stones.

Matthew 3:10 God's axe already is at the root of the trees. And each tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down. And it will be thrown into the fire.

Matthew 3:11 I baptize with water you who repent. But a person who is greater than me will come soon. I shouldn't carry that person's sandals because I'm less worthy than him. That person will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Matthew 3:12 That person will use a fork to winnow his grain. And that person's fork already is in his hand. And that person will clean his threshing floor. He'll gather his wheat into his barn and burn the chaff. That chaff will be burned by a fire that won't stop burning."

Title: Jesus is baptized by John.

Matthew 3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that he could be baptized by John.

Matthew 3:14 But John tried to refuse to baptize Jesus. He said, "It's me who need to be baptized by you. Why did you come to me <<so that I could baptize you>>?"

Matthew 3:15 Jesus answered, "Now agree <<to baptize me>>. We should do all of the righteous things that God wants us to do." Then John agreed <<to baptize Jesus>>.

Matthew 3:16 After Jesus was baptized, he came out immediately from the water. Then the sky was opened. And Jesus saw the Spirit of God, who looked like a dove, coming down and coming on him.

Matthew 3:17 Then a voice that was in the sky said, "This person is my Son, whom I love. I'm very pleased with my Son."

Title: Satan tempts Jesus in the wilderness.

Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led to the wilderness by the Spirit <<of God>> so that he would be tempted by the devil.

Matthew 4:2 After Jesus fasted for forty days and for forty nights <<there>>, he became hungry.

Matthew 4:3 The devil, who tempted people, came to Jesus. And the devil said to Jesus, "If you're God's Son, tell these stones to become bread."

Matthew 4:4 But Jesus said, "The scriptures say, 'If a person has only bread, he won't <<truly>> live. A person also needs all of the words that come out from God's mouth.' <<So I won't do the thing that you told me to do.>>"

Footnote: See Deuteronomy 8:3.

Matthew 4:5 Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city <<, which is Jerusalem>>. And the devil caused Jesus to stand on the highest part of the temple.

Matthew 4:6 Then the devil said to Jesus, "If you're God's Son, jump down <<from here>>. For the scriptures say, 'God will command his angels to help you. And those angels will lift you with their hands <<to protect you>> so that your foot wouldn't hit a stone.'"

Footnote: See Psalms 91:11-12.

Matthew 4:7 Jesus said to the devil, "The scriptures also say, 'Don't test the Lord, who is your God, <<to force the Lord to help you>>.' <<So I won't do the thing that you told me to do.>>"

Footnote: See Deuteronomy 6:16.

Matthew 4:8 The devil took Jesus again and led him to a very high mountain. <<There>> the devil showed all of the kingdoms of the earth and the glory of those kingdoms to Jesus.

Matthew 4:9 And the devil said, "If you bow to me, and if you worship me, I'll give all of those kingdoms to you <<so that you could rule them>>."

Matthew 4:10 Then Jesus said to the devil, "Satan, leave me! <<I won't do the thing that you told me to do.>> For the scriptures say, 'Worship only the Lord, who is your God. And serve only the Lord.'"

Footnote: See Deuteronomy 6:13.

Matthew 4:11 Then the devil left Jesus. And angels came immediately and started serving Jesus.

Title: Jesus starts preaching about God <<to people>>.

Matthew 4:12 After Jesus heard that John the Baptist was put into prison by King Herod's soldiers, he went <<from Judea>> to Galilee.

Matthew 4:13 Jesus left Nazareth and went to <<the town named>> Capernaum to live there. Capernaum was by the <<big>> lake in the region of the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali.

Matthew 4:14 And so the things that were said through the prophet named Isaiah were fulfilled.

Matthew 4:15 That prophet said, "Zebulun and Naphtali's land, which is by the lake on the other side of the Jordan River, and which is <<also>> called 'Galilee of the Gentiles', listen to me.

Matthew 4:16 The people who were living in darkness saw a great light <<in this land>>. Literal Alternate: A light started shining on the people who were living in the land of the shadow of death. Dynamic Alternate: It started shining on the people who were living in darkness without God." End of Alternates.

Footnote: See Isaiah 9:1-2.

Matthew 4:17 During that time <<when Jesus was at Capernaum>>, he started preaching about God <<to people>>. And Jesus said, "Repent. For the kingdom of heaven is near you."

Title: Jesus calls his first disciples.

Matthew 4:18 While Jesus was walking near the <<big lake named>> Sea of Galilee, he saw two men. Those men were Simon, who was called Peter, and Simon's brother Andrew. Simon and Andrew were fishermen. At that time they were throwing a net into the lake.

Matthew 4:19 Jesus said to those brothers, "Come. Follow me. And I will send you to gather my disciples instead of catching fish."

Matthew 4:20 Those brothers immediately left their nets and followed Jesus.

Matthew 4:21 While Jesus was walking from there, he saw two other men. Those men were James, who was the son of <<a man named>> Zebedee, and James' brother John. James and John were in a boat with their father named Zebedee and were repairing their nets. Then Jesus called James and John.

Matthew 4:22 James and John immediately left the boat and their father and followed Jesus.

Title: Jesus preaches in Galilee a message that is about God.

Matthew 4:23 Jesus traveled throughout Galilee and was teaching in the people's synagogues. He was preaching the gospel of the kingdom and also healing people who had all kinds of diseases.

Matthew 4:24 Literal Alternate: News that was about Jesus spread in all of <<the region named>> Syria. Dynamic Alternate: People heard about Jesus in all of <<the region named>> Syria. End of Alternates. And they brought all of the people who had different diseases, all of the people who had a lot of pain, all of the people who were possessed by demons, all of the people who had seizures, and all of the paralyzed people to Jesus. And Jesus healed those people.

Matthew 4:25 Big crowds of people who came from Galilee, <<the region named>> Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and the region that was on the other side of the Jordan River followed Jesus.

Title: Jesus preaches about God's laws to people on a mountain.

Matthew 5:1 When Jesus saw the crowds <<that were following him>>, he went up the side of a mountain. And he sat down. Then Jesus' disciples came to him.

Matthew 5:2 And Jesus started teaching those disciples about God. Jesus said,

Matthew 5:3 Literal Alternate: "People who have a poor spirit are blessed. Dynamic Alternate: "People who know that they need God are blessed. End of Alternates. For the kingdom of heaven belongs to those people.

Matthew 5:4 People who mourn <<now>> are blessed. For they'll be comforted.

Matthew 5:5 People who are humble and are gentle <<with other people>> are blessed. For they'll inherit the earth.

Matthew 5:6 People who greatly desire to do righteous things like a person desires food and drink are blessed. Literal Alternate: For they'll become full <<like after a hungry person eats food, he might become full>>. Dynamic Alternate: For God will help those people become righteous.

Matthew 5:7 People who are merciful <<to other people>> are blessed. For they'll receive mercy <<from God>>.

Matthew 5:8 Literal Alternate: People who have a pure heart are blessed. Dynamic Alternate: People who want to do only good things are blessed. End of Alternates. For those people will see God.

Matthew 5:9 People who help other people live with each other peacefully are blessed. Literal Alternate: For they'll be called God's children. Dynamic Alternate: For God's relationship with those people will be like a father's relationship with his children.

Matthew 5:10 People who are persecuted by other people because they are righteous are blessed. For the kingdom of heaven belongs to those people.

Matthew 5:11 When <<other>> people insult you because of me, when <<other>> people persecute you because of me, and when <<other>> people say many different evil and false things about you because of me, you're blessed.

Matthew 5:12 Be joyful and be glad because your reward that is in heaven is great. For similarly <<other>> people persecuted the prophets who lived before you lived.

Title: Jesus says that his disciples are like salt and light.

Matthew 5:13 You're the salt of the earth. But if salt stops tasting like salt, how is it able to taste like salt again? People aren't able to continue using that salt. So they'll throw that salt away <<onto the street>>. And people will walk on that salt.

Matthew 5:14 You're the light of the world. People aren't able to hide a town that is on a hill.

Matthew 5:15 Similarly, after people light a lamp, they don't put it under a bowl. Literal Alternate: Instead, they put that lamp on a table so that it would give light to all of the people who are in that house. Dynamic Alternate: Instead, they put that lamp on a table so that all of the people who are in that house could see.

Matthew 5:16 Similarly, let your light shine in front of other people so that they would see your good actions. Then those people will glorify your Father, who is in heaven.

Footnote: Jesus said that good actions are like light. The good actions reveal God to people like light reveals things to them.

Title: Jesus talks about the Law.

Matthew 5:17 Don't think that I came to end the Law and the things that the prophets said. I didn't come to end those things. But I came to fulfill those things.

Matthew 5:18 I'm telling the truth to you. The smallest letter that is written in the Law and the smallest part of a letter that is written in it will continue existing until heaven and the earth stop existing. After all of the things <<that have to happen>> happen, those things will stop existing.

Matthew 5:19 So a person who refuses to obey one of the least important commandments and teaches other people that they should also refuse to obey it will be called the least important person in the kingdom of heaven. But a person who obeys the commandments and teaches <<other people>> about them will be called a great person in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:20 I tell you that you certainly won't enter the kingdom of heaven unless you're more righteous than the Pharisees and the Scribes.

Title: Jesus says that people shouldn't be angry with each other.

Matthew 5:21 You heard that the Law told our ancestors, 'Don't murder a person. And a person who murders a person will be judged.'

Footnote: See Exodus 20:13.

Matthew 5:22 But I tell you that a person who is angry with a brother <<or a sister>> will be judged. Perhaps a person will say to a brother <<or a sister>>, 'Raca.' That person will be judged in the court. And perhaps a person will say to a brother <<or a sister>>, 'You're a foolish person!' That person will be guilty so that he would deserve to go into the fire of hell.

Footnote: The Aramaic word 'raca' means 'a stupid person'.

Matthew 5:23 Perhaps you're offering your sacrifice <<to God>> at the altar. But while you're at that altar, you remember that your brother or your sister is angry with you.

Matthew 5:24 Then leave your gift there in front of that altar. Go first and ask that person to forgive you. Then come to that altar <<again>> and give your gift to God.

Matthew 5:25 Before you arrive in the court with your enemy, become a friend of your enemy who is taking you there quickly. For if you don't become your enemy's friend, he might accuse you in front of the judge of doing bad things. And that judge might send you to the officer. And you might be sent to a prison.

Matthew 5:26 I tell the truth to you. You won't come out <<from that prison>> until you pay all of the money that you have to pay.

Title: Jesus talks about relationships with a husband or a wife.

Matthew 5:27 You heard that the Law told our ancestors, 'Don't commit adultery.'

Footnote: See Exodus 20:14.

Matthew 5:28 But I tell you that a man who looks at a woman <<who isn't his wife>> and desires to sleep with that woman already commits adultery in his heart.

Matthew 5:29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pull it out. And throw that eye away. It's bad that you lose one part of your body. But it's worse that your whole body is thrown into hell.

Matthew 5:30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off. And throw that hand away. It's bad that you lose one part your body. But it's worse that your whole body is thrown into hell.

Title: Jesus talks about men who divorce their wives.

Matthew 5:31 You heard that our ancestors were told, 'A man who divorces a woman has to give her a letter that was written by a priest. That letter says that that woman won't continue being that man's wife.'

Footnote: See Deuteronomy 24:1.

Matthew 5:32 But I tell you that a man who divorces a woman causes her <<later>> to commit adultery. But a man who divorces a woman who <<already>> committed adultery doesn't cause her to commit adultery. And a man who marries a woman that a man divorced commits adultery.

Title: Jesus talks about oaths.

Matthew 5:33 You also heard that the Law told our ancestors, 'Don't break your oaths. Instead, do the things that you swore to the Lord that you'll do.'

Footnote: See Leviticus 19:12, Numbers 30:2, and Deuteronomy 23:21.

Matthew 5:34 But I tell you to never swear to a person by God's name <<that you'll do something>>. And don't swear to a person by the name of heaven <<that you'll do something>>. Literal Alternate: For heaven is God's throne. Dynamic Alternate: For it's the place where God rules.

Matthew 5:35 Don't swear to a person by the name of the earth <<that you'll do something>>. Literal Alternate: For the earth is the place where God steps. Dynamic Alternate: For God rules the earth. End of Alternates. Don't swear to a person by the name of Jerusalem <<that you'll do something>>. For Jerusalem is the great king's city.

Matthew 5:36 And don't swear to a person by the name of your head <<that you'll do something>>. For you're not able to cause one hair of your head to become black or white.

Matthew 5:37 Say only, 'Yes.' Or say only, 'No.' All of the other things that you say when you swear to a person <<that you'll do something>> come from the devil.

Title: Jesus says that people shouldn't oppose their enemies.

Matthew 5:38 You heard that the Law told our ancestors, 'If a person damages one of your eyes, one of his eyes must be damaged. And if a person damages one of your teeth, one of his teeth must be damaged.'

Footnote: See Exodus 21:24, Leviticus 24:20, and Deuteronomy 19:21.

Matthew 5:39 But I tell you not to oppose an evil person. If a person hits your right cheek, move your left cheek toward him <<so that he can also hit it>>.

Matthew 5:40 And if a person wants to take you to the court to get your shirt <<that you owe to him>>, also give your coat to him.

Matthew 5:41 And if a person forces you to walk for one half mile with him <<and carry his load>>, walk for one miles with him.

Matthew 5:42 Give a person the things that he asks you for. And don't refuse to let a person borrow things from you.

Title: Jesus says that people should love all people.

Matthew 5:43 You heard that our ancestors were told, 'Love your neighbor. And hate your enemy.'

Footnote: See Leviticus 19:18. The Scribes said that people should hate their enemies. But the scriptures didn't say that people should hate their enemies.

Matthew 5:44 But I tell you to love your enemies and pray for the people who persecute you.

Matthew 5:45 And so you'll be children of your Father, who is in heaven. The Father causes his sun to rise over evil people and over good people. And he causes rain to fall on righteous people and on unrighteous people.

Matthew 5:46 If you love <<only>> the people who love you, which reward do you deserve to receive? Don't the tax collectors love the people who love them?

Matthew 5:47 And if you greet only your brothers and your sisters, are you behaving better than other people? Literal Alternate: Don't Gentiles greet their friends? Dynamic Alternate: Don't bad people greet their friends?

Matthew 5:48 Literal Alternate: Therefore, be perfect like your Father, who is in heaven, is perfect. Dynamic Alternate: Therefore, be completely good like your Father, who is in heaven, is completely good.

Title: Jesus teaches people how to give money and other things to poor people.

Matthew 6:1 When you do righteous things, be careful. Don't do those things in front of other people so that you would be seen by them. If you do righteous things so that you would be seen by other people, your Father, who is in heaven, won't reward you.

Matthew 6:2 So whenever you give money or other things to poor people, don't act like the hypocrites act. Those hypocrites blow trumpets in the synagogues and on the streets so that other people would honor them. I tell the truth to you. Those hypocrites already have their <<whole>> reward.

Matthew 6:3 Literal Alternate: But whenever you give money or other things to poor people, don't let your left hand know the thing that your right hand is doing. Dynamic Alternate: But whenever you give money or other things to poor people, don't let <<other>> people see that you're doing that.

Matthew 6:4 So you should give money or other things to poor people secretly. Then your Father, who sees the things that are done secretly, will reward you.

Title: Jesus teaches people how to pray.

Matthew 6:5 Similarly, whenever you pray, don't act like the hypocrites act. While those hypocrites pray, they like standing in the synagogues and at the corners of the streets so that they would be seen by people. I tell the truth to you. Those hypocrites already have their <<whole>> reward.

Matthew 6:6 But whenever you pray, go into your room. Close the door and pray to your Father, who isn't seen. Then your Father, who sees the things that are done secretly, will reward you.

Matthew 6:7 Literal Alternate: And whenever you pray, don't pray like the Gentiles pray. Dynamic Alternate: And whenever you pray, don't pray like the people who don't know God pray. End of Alternates. While those people are praying, they repeat words often. For they think that because of their many words, they'll be heard.

Matthew 6:8 So don't act like those people act. For before you ask your Father for those things, he knows the things that you need.

Matthew 6:9 Therefore, pray, 'Our Father, who is in heaven, may you be honored.

Matthew 6:10 May your kingdom come. May the things that you want to happen be done on earth like the things that you want to happen in heaven happen.

Matthew 6:11 Literal Alternate: Today give us the bread that we need each day. Dynamic Alternate: Today give us the food that we need each day.

Matthew 6:12 And forgive our sins like we also forgave the people who sinned against us.

Matthew 6:13 And don't let us be tempted by a person or something <<so that we would sin>>. Instead, save us from the evil spirit.'

Footnote: Some manuscripts of this part of the scriptures include the following words. "For the kingdom is your kingdom. And the power and the glory belong to you forever. Amen."

Matthew 6:14 For if <<when those people sin against you,>> you forgive their sins, <<when you sin against your Father,>> he, who is in heaven, will also forgive you.

Matthew 6:15 But if you don't forgive <<other>> people's sins, your Father won't <<also>> forgive your sins.

Title: Jesus teaches people how to fast.

Matthew 6:16 Whenever you fast, don't act like the hypocrites act. Those hypocrites cause their faces to look sad to show people that those hypocrites are fasting. I tell the truth to you. Those hypocrites already have their <<whole>> reward.

Matthew 6:17 But when you fast, put oil on your head. And wash your face.

Matthew 6:18 Then <<other>> people won't notice that you're fasting. But your Father, who isn't seen, will see you. And your Father, who sees the things that are done secretly, will reward you.

Title: Jesus talks about treasures.

Matthew 6:19 Don't store treasures for yourselves on earth. For there are insects that might destroy those treasures on earth. And there is rust that might destroy those treasures. And there are thieves who might enter your house to steal those treasures.

Matthew 6:20 Instead, store treasures for yourselves in heaven. For in heaven there are no moths that might destroy those treasures. There is no rust that might destroy those treasures. And there are no thieves who might enter the place <<where those treasures are>> to steal them.

Matthew 6:21 Literal Alternate: The place where your treasure is also is the place where your heart will be. Dynamic Alternate: The place where you store treasures also is the place that you'll care about.

Matthew 6:22 Literal Alternate: The eye is the body's lamp. Dynamic Alternate: A person's eyes are like a light that shines inside his thoughts. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: Therefore, if your eyes are

good, your whole body will be full of light. Dynamic Alternate: Therefore, if your eyes are good, all of your thoughts are good. End of Alternates.

Footnote: In those days people thought that a person's eyes showed his mind <<to other people>>.

Matthew 6:23 Literal Alternate: But if your eyes are evil, your whole body will be full of darkness.

Dynamic Alternate: But if your eyes are bad, all of your thoughts are evil. End of Alternates. Literal

Alternate: So if the light that shines in you is darkness, the darkness <<that is in you>> is very dark!

Dynamic Alternate: You might think that your thoughts are good even though actually they are evil.

Dynamic Alternate: Then your mind is very evil!

Matthew 6:24 No person is able to serve two masters. A person will hate one master and love the other master. Similarly, a person will follow one master and refuse to follow the other master. So you won't be able to serve God and wealth <<also>>.

Title: Jesus tells people not to worry.

Matthew 6:25 So I tell you not to worry about your lives. Don't worry that you might not have enough food or enough drink. And don't worry about the things that your body needs. Don't worry about the clothes that you'll wear. Isn't life more important than food? Isn't the body more important than clothes?

Matthew 6:26 Consider the birds that are in the air. The birds don't plant seeds. The birds don't harvest crops and don't store them in barns. But your Father, who is in heaven, feeds those birds. Aren't you more valuable than birds?

Matthew 6:27 Which person who is among you is able to increase his life by worrying? If you worry, you won't increase the time when you'll live. You won't even live for one more hour.

Matthew 6:28 Similarly, why do you worry about clothes? Consider the lilies that are growing in the fields. Lilies don't work and don't make clothes for themselves.

Matthew 6:29 <<King>> Solomon wore very glorious clothes. But I tell you that Solomon's clothes weren't more beautiful than one of these lilies.

Matthew 6:30 Grass that is in the fields lives for only several months. Then it's thrown into <<people's>> furnaces. But God causes that grass to look very beautiful. Therefore, won't he provide clothes for you? Your faith is very little!

Matthew 6:31 Therefore, don't worry and don't say, 'Which food will we eat? Which drinks will we drink?' And don't say, 'Which clothes will we wear?'

Matthew 6:32 Literal Alternate: The Gentiles search for those things continuously. Dynamic Alternate: The people who don't know God search for those things continuously. End of Alternates. But your Father, who is in heaven, knows that you need all of those things.

Matthew 6:33 Instead, seek God's kingdom first. And seek God's righteousness first. And all of those other things <<that you need>> will be also given to you.

Matthew 6:34 Literal Alternate: Therefore, <<today>> don't worry about tomorrow. Dynamic Alternate: Therefore, <<today>> don't worry about the things that tomorrow might happen. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: For tomorrow will worry about itself. Dynamic Alternate: For tomorrow there will be the problems of tomorrow. End of Alternates. Each day has enough trouble.

Title: Jesus says that people shouldn't judge other people.

Matthew 7:1 Don't judge other people so that you won't be judged.

Matthew 7:2 For you'll be judged like you judge other people. And the amount that you use <<when you judge other people>> will be the amount that you'll receive <<from God>>.

Matthew 7:3 Why do you look at the piece of wood dust that is in your brother or your sister's eye even though you don't notice the big piece of wood that is in your eye?

Footnote: Jesus is saying that sins that are in a person's life are like a piece of wood that is in his eye.

Matthew 7:4 While a big piece of wood is in your eye, why do you say to your brother <<or your sister>>, 'Let me take the piece of wood dust out of your eye'?

Matthew 7:5 You're a hypocrite. Take the big piece of wood out of your eye first. Then you'll be able to see clearly to take the piece of wood dust out of your brother or your sister's eye.

Matthew 7:6 Don't <<also>> give dogs things that are holy. If you do that, those dogs might turn around. And they might tear you into pieces. And don't throw your pearls to pigs. If you do that, those pigs might step on those pearls.

Footnote: Jesus spoke about animals like they were people who didn't accept the gospel.

Title: Jesus says that God answers people's prayers.

Matthew 7:7 Ask <<God>> for something. And you'll receive that thing <<from God>>. Search for something. And you'll find that thing. Knock on a door. And that door will be opened for you.

Matthew 7:8 For each person who asks <<God>> for something will receive it. And the person who searches for something will find it. And a door will be opened for the person who knocks there.

Matthew 7:9 If a son asks his parents for bread, which person who is among you'll give a stone to his son?

Matthew 7:10 If that son asks <<that person>> for some fish, will that person give a snake to him?

Matthew 7:11 You're evil. But you know how to give good gifts to your children. Therefore, your Father, who is in heaven, <<, and who is good,>> will certainly give good things to the people who ask him for good things!

Matthew 7:12 So treat <<other>> people always like you want them to treat you. For this commandment contains the whole message of the Law and of the prophets.

Title: Jesus says that people should choose the narrow gate.

Matthew 7:13 Enter the narrow gate. The gate that leads to the place where people are destroyed is wide. And the road that leads there is wide. And many people enter that gate.

Matthew 7:14 <<But>> the gate that leads to life <<that never ends>> is narrow. And the road that leads to life that never ends is narrow. Only a few people find that gate.

Title: Jesus warns people about false prophets.

Matthew 7:15 Watch out for the false prophets. Literal Alternate: When those people come among you, they try to look like sheep. Dynamic Alternate: When those people come among you, they pretend to be like you. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: But actually they are wolves. Dynamic Alternate: But actually they want to destroy you.

Matthew 7:16 Literal Alternate: You'll recognize those people by looking at the fruit that they produce. Dynamic Alternate: You'll know that those people are false prophets by thinking about the things that they do. End of Alternates. <<A person's actions are like fruit that a plant produces.>> Do people pick grapes from thorny bushes? Do they pick figs from thorny plants?

Matthew 7:17 Similarly, each good tree produces good fruit. But each bad tree produces bad fruit.

Matthew 7:18 A good tree isn't able to produce bad fruit. And a bad tree isn't able to produce good fruit.

Matthew 7:19 Each tree that doesn't produce good fruit is cut down. And it's thrown into a fire.

Matthew 7:20 Literal Alternate: Therefore, you'll certainly recognize false prophets by looking at the fruit that they produce. Dynamic Alternate: Therefore, you'll certainly know that those people are false prophets by thinking about the things that they do.

Title: Jesus talks about false disciples.

Matthew 7:21 Some of the people who say to me, 'Lord, Lord' Won't enter the kingdom of heaven. Instead, the people who do the things that please my Father, who is in heaven, will enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 7:22 On that day <<when God will judge people>> they'll say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy with the authority of your name? And didn't we command evil spirits with the authority of

your name to come out from people? Didn't we do many things with the authority of your name through God's power?'

Matthew 7:23 Literal Alternate: Then I'll tell clearly those people, 'I never knew you. Dynamic Alternate: Then I'll tell clearly those people, 'I never had a relationship with you. End of Alternates. The people who do evil things, leave me!'

Title: Jesus says that there are wise people and foolish people.

Matthew 7:24 Therefore, every person who hears my words and does those things that I'm saying is like a wise person who built his house on stone.

Matthew 7:25 <<Then>> the rain fell. The rivers <<that were by that house>> became deep. And the winds blew on that house fiercely. But that house didn't fall because it was built on stone.

Matthew 7:26 And every person who hears my words and doesn't do those things that I'm saying is like a foolish person who built his house on sand.

Matthew 7:27 <<Then>> the rain fell. The rivers <<that were by that house>> became deep. And the winds blew on that house fiercely. So that house fell and was completely destroyed."

Matthew 7:28 Because of the things that Jesus was teaching to the people, after he said those words, they were surprised.

Matthew 7:29 For Jesus didn't teach those things to the people like their Scribes taught things <<to those people>>. Instead, when Jesus taught those things <<to those people>>, he had authority.

Title: Jesus heals a man who has a skin leprosy.

Matthew 8:1 When Jesus came down from the mountain, a big crowd followed him.

Matthew 8:2 And a man who had leprosy came to Jesus. That man bowed in front of Jesus and said, "Master, if you're willing <<to heal me>>, you're able to cause me to become clean."

Footnote: Jewish law said that people who had leprosy weren't clean. So those people weren't allowed to worship God in synagogues. And they weren't allowed to come near other people.

Matthew 8:3 Then Jesus reached out his hand <<toward that man>> and touched him. Jesus said, "I'm willing <<to heal you>>. Become clean!" <<Then that man became healthy.>> And he immediately became clean.

Matthew 8:4 Then Jesus said to that man, "Listen to me. Don't tell a person about this thing <<that happened>>. Instead, go and show yourself to the priest. And offer a sacrifice <<to God>>. Moses commanded people who had been healed to offer a sacrifice <<to God>>. Those actions will testify to the people <<that you're clean>>."

Title: A Roman officer believes in Jesus.

Matthew 8:5 After Jesus entered Capernaum, a Roman officer who oversaw one hundred soldiers came to him. And that officer begged Jesus to help him.

Matthew 8:6 That officer said, "Lord, my servant is lying in the house in a bed because he is paralyzed and is suffering greatly."

Matthew 8:7 Primary: Jesus said to that officer, "I'll come to your house to heal that servant." Alternate 1: Jesus said to that officer, "Do you want me to come to your house to heal that servant?"

Matthew 8:8 Literal Alternate: The officer said, "Lord, I don't deserve for you to come under my roof. Dynamic Alternate: He said, "Lord, I don't deserve for you to come into my house. End of Alternates. <<So don't come to my house.>> Literal Alternate: Instead, say the word. Dynamic Alternate: Say, 'Become healthy!' End of Alternates. Then my servant will become healthy.

Matthew 8:9 <<I know that you're able to say that command.>> For there are people who have authority to give commands to me. And I also have authority to give commands to soldiers. And when I say to a soldier, 'Go <<to a place>>', that soldier goes <<there>>. And when I say to another soldier, 'Come <<to me>>', that soldier comes <<to me>>. And when I say to my servant, 'Do something', that servant does it."

Matthew 8:10 When Jesus heard those words, he was amazed. And he said to the people who were following him, "I'm telling the truth to you. Previously I never found in Israel a person who had a lot of faith like this officer has a lot of faith <<in me>>.

Matthew 8:11 Literal Alternate: I tell you that many people will come from the eastern regions and the western regions. Dynamic Alternate: I tell you that many people <<who aren't Jews>> will come from all of the earth's places. End of Alternates. And those people will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the meal that will be in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 8:12 But the kingdom of heaven's many sons will be forced to leave the kingdom. Literal Alternate: Those people will be sent to the dark place where they'll weep and they'll gnash their teeth <<because of their terrible pain>>. Dynamic Alternate: They'll be sent to the dark place where they'll weep and they'll suffer greatly."

Matthew 8:13 Then Jesus said to that officer, "Go <<to your house>>. Your servant will be healed immediately like you believed that he'll be healed." And that officer's servant was healed immediately.

Title: Jesus heals many people.

Matthew 8:14 <<Later>> when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law. Peter's mother-in-law was lying <<on a bed>> because she had a fever.

Matthew 8:15 Jesus touched that mother-in-law's hand. Literal Alternate: And that mother-in-law stopped having a fever. Dynamic Alternate: And she became healthy. End of Alternates. So she got up and started serving food to Jesus.

Matthew 8:16 In the evening many people that demons possessed were brought to Jesus <<on that day>>. And Jesus forced those demons to immediately leave those people by saying a command. He <<also>> healed all of the people who were sick.

Matthew 8:17 Jesus did these things so that the things that were said through the prophet named Isaiah would be fulfilled. Isaiah <<said>>, "That person took our diseases away. Literal Alternate: That person carried our diseases." Dynamic Alternate: That person healed us by suffering for us. End of Alternates.

Footnote: See Isaiah 4:53.

Title: People want to follow Jesus.

Matthew 8:18 When Jesus saw the crowd that was around him, he commanded his disciples to go to the other side of the lake <<named Galilee with him>>.

Matthew 8:19 Then a Scribe came to Jesus. And that Scribe said, "Teacher, I'll follow you to every place where you'll go."

Matthew 8:20 But Jesus said, "Foxes have holes <<where they live>>. And birds have nests. But the Son of Man doesn't have a place where he is able to rest."

Matthew 8:21 And another disciple said to Jesus, "Lord, first let me go so that I could bury my father."

Matthew 8:22 But Jesus said to that disciple, "Follow me and let dead people bury their dead people."

Title: Jesus causes a storm to end.

Matthew 8:23 Then Jesus boarded a boat. And Jesus' disciples followed him.

Matthew 8:24 Suddenly there was a terrible storm on the lake so waves started entering the boat. But Jesus was sleeping.

Matthew 8:25 The disciples went <<to Jesus>> and woke him up. They said, "Lord, save us! We'll drown!"

Matthew 8:26 Jesus asked, "Why are you afraid? You don't have a lot of faith." Then Jesus got up and spoke to the winds and the waves. Then the water became completely calm.

Matthew 8:27 The disciples were amazed and asked each other, "Which kind of man is this man? The winds and the waves obey this man!"

Title: Jesus forces demons to leave two men.

Matthew 8:28 After Jesus and the disciples arrived in the region named Gadara, which was on the other side <<of the lake>>, two men who were possessed by demons came out from the tombs to Jesus. They were very violent. So no person was able to go on the road <<that was there>>.

Footnote: Some manuscripts of this part of the scriptures use the word 'Gergesenes' or the word 'Gerasenes' to describe the place where Jesus went.

Matthew 8:29 Those demons shouted <<through those men>>, "Son of God, why do you come to us? Did you come here to cause us to suffer greatly before the time that God chose?"

Matthew 8:30 A big herd of pigs were eating near there.

Matthew 8:31 Those demons begged Jesus, "If you command us to leave these men, send us to those pigs."

Matthew 8:32 Jesus said to those demons, "Go into the herd of pigs!" So those demons came out from those men and went into those pigs. Then the whole herd of pigs went down the steep hill into the lake quickly and drowned.

Matthew 8:33 Then the men who took care of those pigs ran away. They went into the city and told people about all of those things. They also told people about the things that happened to the two men who were possessed by demons.

Matthew 8:34 Then all of the people went out from that city to meet Jesus. And when those people saw Jesus, they urgently begged him to leave their region.

Title: Jesus heals a paralyzed man.

Matthew 9:1 Jesus boarded a boat and went to the other side <<of the lake>>. He came to the town named Capernaum where he lived.

Matthew 9:2 Some men brought to Jesus a man who was paralyzed and was lying on a mat. When Jesus noticed that those men had faith <<in him>>, he said to him, "Child, don't worry! Your sins are forgiven."

Matthew 9:3 When Jesus said this, some Scribes thought, "This man is insulting God <<by talking like he is God>>!"

Matthew 9:4 Jesus, who knew those Scribes' thoughts, asked them, "Why do you have evil thoughts in your hearts?"

Matthew 9:5 Which action is easier than the other action? I might say, 'Your sins are forgiven.' Or I might say, 'Get up! And walk!'

Matthew 9:6 But I want you to know that I, the Son of Man, have authority on the earth to forgive sins." So Jesus said to the man who was paralyzed, "Get up. Take your mat and go to your house."

Matthew 9:7 Then that man got up. <<He picked up his mat.>> And he went to his house.

Matthew 9:8 When the people saw this event, they were amazed. And they praised God because he allowed a person to perform that miracle.

Title: Jesus calls Matthew.

Matthew 9:9 While Jesus was walking from there <<along Lake Galilee>>, he saw a man named Matthew who was sitting at the place where tax collectors worked. Jesus said to Matthew, "Become my disciple." So Matthew got up and followed Jesus. <<Then Jesus went to Matthew's house with him.>>

Matthew 9:10 While Jesus was eating at <<Matthew's>> house, many tax collectors and many sinners came there. And those people ate with Jesus and his disciples.

Matthew 9:11 When the Pharisees saw those people eating, they asked Jesus' disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with the tax collectors and the sinners?"

Matthew 9:12 When Jesus heard those words, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor. Instead, it's sick people who need a doctor.

Matthew 9:13 But go and learn the thing that the following words mean. The scriptures say, 'I desire mercy more than I desire sacrifices.' For I didn't come to call the righteous people. Instead, I came to call sinners."

Footnote: See Hosea 6:6.

Title: The disciples ask Jesus about people who fast.

Matthew 9:14 Then the disciples of John the Baptist came and said to Jesus, "We and the Pharisees fast often. <<So>> why don't your disciples fast?"

Matthew 9:15 Jesus said, "Should the groom's guests mourn while he is with them? There will be a time when the groom will be taken away from those guests. Then those guests will fast.

Matthew 9:16 People shouldn't sew new cloth on old clothes. For if a person does that, that new cloth will tear those old clothes. <<After that person washes that new cloth, it will become smaller.>> So that hole will become bigger.

Matthew 9:17 <<Similarly,>> people shouldn't pour new wine into old wineskins. For if a person does that, that wine will cause those wineskins to burst. And it will flow from those wineskins. And the wineskins will be ruined. Instead, people should pour new wine into new wineskins so that they would continue being good."

Title: Jesus heals people.

Matthew 9:18 While Jesus was saying these words to the disciples, a leader of the synagogue <<that was in that town>> came. And he bowed to Jesus. That leader said, "My daughter died. But if you come <<to my house>> to put your hand on my daughter, she'll rise from the dead."

Matthew 9:19 Jesus got up and went <<to that leader's house>> with him. And Jesus' disciples also went <<there>>.

Matthew 9:20 At that time a woman who was bleeding for twelve years continuously <<and was still bleeding>> came to Jesus. When that woman was behind Jesus, she touched the edge of his clothes.

Matthew 9:21 That woman thought, "If I touch Jesus' clothes, I'll be healed."

Matthew 9:22 Then Jesus turned around and saw that woman. He said <<to that woman>>, "Daughter, don't worry. Your faith healed you." And that woman was healed immediately.

Matthew 9:23 Then Jesus entered the house of the leader of the synagogue. He saw a crowd <<in that house>>. The people were playing flutes <<that people play when a person died>>. And <<other>> people were weeping loudly.

Matthew 9:24 Jesus said <<to those people>>, "Go out <<from this house>>. This girl isn't dead. Instead, she is sleeping." But those people mocked Jesus.

Matthew 9:25 After Jesus sent the crowd from the house, he entered the girl's room. And he held the girl's hand. Then the girl got up.

Matthew 9:26 Literal Alternate: This news spread through that whole region. Dynamic Alternate: Very many people who lived in that region heard about this news.

Title: Jesus heals people who are blind and people who are mute.

Matthew 9:27 While Jesus was leaving there, two men who were blind followed him. They cried out <<to Jesus>>, "<<King>> David's Son, feel pity for us!"

Matthew 9:28 After Jesus entered the house <<where he stayed in Capernaum>>, the men who were blind came to him. And Jesus asked those men, "Do you believe that I'm able to heal you?" The men answered, "Master, yes."

Matthew 9:29 Then Jesus touched those men's eyes and said, "Because of your faith, you're healed."

Matthew 9:30 Literal Alternate: And those men's eyes were opened. Dynamic Alternate: And those men became again able to see things. End of Alternates. Jesus sternly warned those men, "Don't tell a person about the thing that happened to you."

Matthew 9:31 But those men left there and told people about the thing that Jesus did in many places that were in that region.

Matthew 9:32 While those men were leaving that house, a man who was mute because he was possessed by a demon was brought to Jesus.

Matthew 9:33 After Jesus forced that demon to leave that man, the man who <<previously>> was mute started speaking. The crowd was amazed. The people said, “<<Previously>> something that was like this thing never happened in Israel.”

Matthew 9:34 But the Pharisees said <<to those people>>, “Jesus forces the demons to leave people by using the prince of the demons’ power.”

Title: Jesus says that there aren't many people who do God's work.

Matthew 9:35 Jesus was traveling through all of the towns and through all of the villages <<that were in that region>>. And he was teaching in the synagogues. He was preaching the gospel of the kingdom and also healing people who had all kinds of diseases.

Matthew 9:36 When Jesus saw the crowds, he felt pity for the people because they were troubled. And he felt pity for the people because they greatly needed a person to help them like sheep that don't have a shepherd need him.

Matthew 9:37 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “There is a lot of grain that should be harvested. But there are few people who do <<the master's>> work.

Footnote: Jesus was saying that people were ready to believe in God like grain that is in a field is ready to be harvested.

Matthew 9:38 Therefore, earnestly ask God, who owns the crops, to send into his field people who do his work.”

Title: Jesus gives authority to his twelve disciples.

Matthew 10:1 Jesus called his twelve disciples and gave authority to them so that they could force unclean spirits to leave people and so that those twelve disciples could heal people who had any kind of disease.

Matthew 10:2 The names of the twelve apostles <<, who were Jesus' disciples,>> were Simon, who was called Peter, Simon's brother Andrew, James, who was Zebedee's son, James' brother John,

Matthew 10:3 Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, who collected taxes, James, who was Alphaeus' son, Thaddaeus,

Matthew 10:4 Simon, who was called Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.

Matthew 10:5 Jesus sent those twelve disciples <<to people>> and gave the following instructions to those twelve disciples. He said, “Don't go among the Gentiles and don't enter the Samaritans' town.

Matthew 10:6 Instead, go to Israel's people, who are like sheep that are lost.

Matthew 10:7 When you go <<to people>>, proclaim the following message <<to them>>. Say, 'The kingdom of heaven is here.'

Matthew 10:8 Heal the sick people. Cause the dead people to rise from the dead. Cause the people who have leprosy to become clean. Force evil demons to leave people. You received the gospel. But you didn't pay <<for the gospel>>. So give the gospel <<to people>> and don't ask them to pay for it.

Matthew 10:9 Don't bring gold, silver, or copper in the pockets of your belts.

Matthew 10:10 And <<when you leave here,>> don't take a bag, another shirt, sandals, or a staff. For the person who works deserves to receive his wage.

Matthew 10:11 Whenever you enter a town or a village, search there for a worthy person <<who will let you stay at his house>>. And stay at that person's house until you leave that town or that village.

Matthew 10:12 When you enter <<that person's>> house, greet it.

Matthew 10:13 Literal Alternate: If the people who are in that house treat you kindly, let your peace be in there. Dynamic Alternate: If the people who are in that house treat you kindly, give peace to them. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: If those people don't treat you kindly, let your peace return to you. Dynamic Alternate: If those people don't treat you kindly, don't give peace to them.

Matthew 10:14 If a person refuses to welcome you in that house or in that town, or if he refuses to listen to your message, leave them. And shake your feet so that the dust would fall.

Footnote: The disciples did this to show those people that they rejected the people because they rejected them.

Matthew 10:15 I'm telling the truth to you. On the day when God will judge all of the people of the earth, bad things will happen to the people who lived in <<the city named>> Sodom and the people who lived in <<the city named>> Gomorrah. But on the day when God will judge all of the people of the earth, terrible things will happen to those people <<who didn't welcome you>>.

Matthew 10:16 Behold. I'm sending you like sheep are sent to wolves. Therefore, be wise like snakes are wise. And be innocent like doves are innocent.

Matthew 10:17 Watch out. You'll be taken to the courts <<of towns and of villages>> and be whipped in the synagogues <<there>>.

Matthew 10:18 Because of me, you'll be brought to governors and kings so that you could tell those people and the Gentiles about God.

Matthew 10:19 But when those people arrest you, don't worry about the words that you'll say. Literal Alternate: At that time you'll receive <<from the Holy Spirit>> the words that you should say. Dynamic Alternate: At that time the Holy Spirit will cause you to know the words that you should say.

Matthew 10:20 For you won't speak. Instead, your Father's Holy Spirit will speak through you.

Matthew 10:21 A man will betray his brother so that he would be killed. And a father will betray his child so that he would be killed. Children will rebel against their parents and cause them to be killed.

Matthew 10:22 Because of me, you'll be hated by all people. But a person who follows me until the end <<of his life>> will be saved <<from hell>>.

Matthew 10:23 When you're persecuted at a place, escape to another place. I'm telling the truth to you. Before I, the Son of Man, come, you won't finish going through the towns of Israel.

Matthew 10:24 A student isn't more important than his teacher. And a servant isn't more important than his master.

Matthew 10:25 It's good that a student becomes like his teacher. And it's good that a servant becomes like his master. The people who live in that leader's house will be also called 'Beelzebul' because the leader of them was called 'Beelzebul'.

Footnote: Beelzebul is one of Satan's names.

Matthew 10:26 So don't be afraid of those people <<who don't treat you well>>. For all of the things that are hidden will be found. And all of the things that are hidden will be shown <<to people>>.

Matthew 10:27 Literal Alternate: Tell <<people>> the things that I tell to you in the darkness in the light. Dynamic Alternate: Speak publicly about the things that I tell to you secretly. End of Alternates. And stand on the roofs to shout the things that I whisper to you in your ears.

Matthew 10:28 Don't be afraid of people who kill <<people's>> bodies. Those people aren't able to kill <<a person's>> soul. Instead, be afraid of the person who is able to destroy the soul and the body in hell.

Matthew 10:29 Aren't two sparrows sold for one penny? But a sparrow won't fall to the ground unless the Father allows that thing to happen.

Matthew 10:30 Literal Alternate: And all of the hairs that are on your head were counted. Dynamic Alternate: God knows the number of hairs that are on your head.

Matthew 10:31 So don't be afraid. <<For>> you're much more valuable than many sparrows.

Matthew 10:32 If a person says in front of other people that he follows me, I'll also say in front of my Father, who is in heaven, that he follows me.

Matthew 10:33 But if a person says in front of other people that he doesn't follow me, I'll also say in front of my Father, who is in heaven, that he doesn't follow me.

Matthew 10:34 Don't think that I came <<to the earth>> to bring peace. I didn't come to bring peace. Literal Alternate: Instead, I came to bring a sword. Dynamic Alternate: Instead, I came to cause people to oppose each other.

Matthew 10:35 For I came to cause a man to oppose his father. I came to cause a daughter to oppose her mother. I came to cause a daughter-in-law to oppose her mother-in-law.

Matthew 10:36 And that man's enemies will be the people who live in his house.

Footnote: See Micah 6:7.

Matthew 10:37 A person who loves his father or his mother more than he loves me doesn't deserve to be with me. A person who loves his son or his daughter more than he loves me doesn't deserve to be with me.

Matthew 10:38 Literal Alternate: A person who doesn't carry his cross to follow me doesn't deserve to be my disciple. Dynamic Alternate: A person who isn't ready to suffer because he follows me doesn't deserve to be my disciple.

Matthew 10:39 Literal Alternate: A person who finds his life will lose it. Dynamic Alternate: He won't receive it. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: But a person who loses his life for me will find it. Dynamic Alternate: But he'll receive eternal life.

Matthew 10:40 A person who accepts you accepts me. And a person who accepts me accepts God, who sent me.

Matthew 10:41 A person who welcomes a prophet like they should welcome a prophet will receive the reward that prophets receive. And a person who welcomes a good person like they should welcome a good person will receive the reward that good people receive.

Matthew 10:42 And I'm telling the truth to you. If a person gives a cup of cold water to one of my least important disciples for me, he'll certainly receive his reward.

Title: Jesus talks about John the Baptist.

Matthew 11:1 After Jesus finished teaching his twelve disciples about <<God's>> kingdom, Jesus left there <<with them>>. Then he went to the Jewish towns <<that were in Galilee>> to preach about <<God's>> kingdom to people.

Matthew 11:2 John the Baptist heard about the things that Christ was doing while he was in prison. And he sent his disciples to Christ.

Matthew 11:3 Those disciples asked Christ, "Are you the person that we are expecting to come <<to us>>? Or should we expect another person to come?"

Matthew 11:4 Jesus answered those disciples, "Return to John <<the Baptist>> and tell John the Baptist about the things that you hear. And tell John the Baptist about the things that you see.

Matthew 11:5 Blind people start seeing. Lame people start walking. People who have leprosy become clean. Deaf people start hearing sounds. Dead people rise from the dead. And the gospel is preached to poor people.

Matthew 11:6 God will bless people who because of the things that I do, don't reject me.”

Matthew 11:7 While John's disciples were leaving there, Jesus started talking to the crowd about John. Jesus said, “When you went to the desert, did you go to see a reed that because of the wind, moved?

Matthew 11:8 Or did you go to see a man who wore beautiful clothes? You know that the people who wear beautiful clothes are in kings' palaces.

Matthew 11:9 Then did you want to see a prophet? I tell you that John the Baptist is the most important prophet.

Matthew 11:10 The scriptures say the following words about John. The scriptures say, “Behold. Primary: Before I send you, I'll send my messenger. Alternate 1: I'll send my messenger so that he would be in front of you. Literal Alternate: And that messenger will prepare your path. Dynamic Alternate: And he'll say that you're coming.” End of Alternates.

Footnote: See Malachi 3:1.

Matthew 11:11 I tell the truth to you. Literal Alternate: John the Baptist is the most important person who was born from a woman. Dynamic Alternate: John the Baptist is the most important person who was born <<on earth>>. End of Alternates. But the least important person who is in the kingdom of heaven is more important than John the Baptist.

Matthew 11:12 From the days when John the Baptist was preaching about God to people, until this day the kingdom of heaven is being violently attacked. And violent people are trying to capture the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 11:13 For all of the prophets and the laws <<of Moses>> were God's prophets until John the Baptist was God's prophet.

Matthew 11:14 And although some people aren't willing to accept these words, John the Baptist is Elijah that you were expecting to come.

Matthew 11:15 The people who have ears to hear things, listen to these words.

Matthew 11:16 With what should I compare the people who are living now? These people are like children who are sitting in the markets and are shouting to other children.

Matthew 11:17 Those children are saying, ‘We played the flute for you. But you didn't dance. <<And>> we sang a sad song of death. But you didn't mourn.’

Matthew 11:18 Similarly, when John the Baptist came, he wasn't eating. And he wasn't drinking. So people say, “This man is controlled by an evil spirit.”

Matthew 11:19 When I, the Son of Man, came, I, the Son of Man, was eating. And I, the Son of Man, was drinking. So people say, 'This man eats too much food and drinks too much alcohol. And this man is some tax collectors' friend and some sinners' friend.' But when a person is wise, the things that he does show his wisdom <<to people>>.”

Title: Jesus talks about people who don't repent.

Matthew 11:20 Then Jesus started rebuking the people who were in the towns where he performed many miracles because they didn't repent.

Matthew 11:21 Jesus said, “People of Chorazin, bad things will happen to you! People of Bethsaida, bad things will happen to you! For miracles were performed among you. <<But you didn't repent.>> If I had performed in Tyre and in Sidon the miracles that I performed among you, the people of those towns would have put sackcloth on. And if I had performed in Tyre and in Sidon the miracles that I performed among you, they would have put ashes on themselves.

Footnote: People did those things to show other people that they repented.

Matthew 11:22 But I tell you that on the day when God will judge all of the people of the earth, he'll punish you more than he'll punish the people of Tyre and the people of Sidon.

Matthew 11:23 And you, people of Capernaum, do you think that you'll be brought to heaven because you'll be honored? No. You'll be sent to hell. For today if I had performed in Sodom the miracles that I performed among you, the people of that town still would have existed.

Matthew 11:24 But I tell you that on the day when God will judge all of the people of the earth, he'll punish you more than he'll punish Sodom.”

Title: The Father reveals himself to people through Jesus.

Matthew 11:25 After Jesus said those things, he said, “Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, I praise you because you didn't reveal these things to the wise people and the powerful people. Literal Alternate: But you revealed these things to people who are like children. Dynamic Alternate: But you revealed these things to people who aren't powerful.

Matthew 11:26 For Father, you really wanted to do this.

Matthew 11:27 All things were given to me by my Father. No person knows me, the Son, except the Father. And no person knows the Father except me, the Son, and except the people that I, the Son, choose to show him to.

Matthew 11:28 People who are tired and carry a heavy load, come to me. Then I'll cause you to rest.

Matthew 11:29 Put the yoke that I give you on you. And learn things from me. For I'm gentle and am not proud in my heart. Then your souls will rest <<peacefully>>.

Matthew 11:30 For the yokes that I give you're easy. And the load that I give you is light.”

Title: Jesus is lord of the Sabbath.

Matthew 12:1 Then one Sabbath Jesus and his disciples were going through fields of grain. Jesus' disciples were hungry. So they started picking the grains and started eating them.

Matthew 12:2 When the Pharisees saw those disciples eating the grains, they said to Jesus, "Look! Your disciples are doing something that the Law doesn't allow people to do on the Sabbath."

Matthew 12:3 Jesus said to those Pharisees, "Did you read <<in the scriptures>> about the thing that <<King>> David did when he and the men who were with him were hungry?"

Matthew 12:4 David entered God's house. And David and the men who were with him ate the holy bread even though the Law allows only priests to eat it.

Matthew 12:5 And did you read in the Law <<of Moses>> about the priests who work on the Sabbath in the temple? Those priests are innocent even though the Law doesn't allow people to work on that holy day.

Matthew 12:6 I tell you that something that is greater than the temple is here.

Matthew 12:7 The scriptures <<say>>, 'I desire mercy more than I desire sacrifices.' If you had known the meaning of those words, you would not have told these disciples, who are innocent, that the things that they did were bad.

Footnote: See Hosea 6:6.

Matthew 12:8 Literal Alternate: For I, the Son of Man, am lord of the Sabbath. Dynamic Alternate: For I, the Son of Man, have authority to choose the things that people may do on the Sabbath."

Matthew 12:9 Jesus left there and went into the synagogue <<of that town>>.

Matthew 12:10 And a man who had a shriveled hand was there. The Pharisees <<who were there>> were trying to accuse Jesus of sinning. So they asked Jesus, "Does the Law allow people to heal people on the Sabbath?"

Matthew 12:11 Jesus asked those Pharisees, "If a sheep of a person who is among you falls into a hole on the Sabbath, will that person pull him out of it?"

Matthew 12:12 A person is more valuable than a sheep! Therefore, the Law allows people to do good things on the Sabbath."

Matthew 12:13 Then Jesus said to the man <<who had a shriveled hand>>, "Move your hand toward me." So that man reached out his hand toward Jesus. And that man's hand became completely healthy like his other hand was healthy.

Matthew 12:14 Then the Pharisees went out <<from there>> and plotted to kill Jesus.

Title: Jesus is the servant that God chose.

Matthew 12:15 Jesus knew about that plan. So he left there. A big crowd followed Jesus. And Jesus healed all of the people who were sick.

Matthew 12:16 Jesus warned those people not to tell other people about him.

Matthew 12:17 These things happened so that the words that God said through the prophet named Isaiah would be fulfilled.

Matthew 12:18 Isaiah wrote, "Behold. This person is my servant that I chose. This person is the person that I love and pleases my soul. I'll put my Spirit on this person. And this person will proclaim to the nations the things that are just.

Matthew 12:19 This person won't violently argue with people and won't shout his message <<to them>>. People won't hear this person's voice in the streets.

Matthew 12:20 Literal Alternate: This person won't break a reed that is bending. Dynamic Alternate: He <<won't hurt>> people who are weak like a person doesn't break a reed that is bending. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: This person won't cause a lamp that stopped almost burning to stop burning. Dynamic Alternate: He <<won't hurt>> those people like a person doesn't cause a lamp that stopped almost burning to stop burning. End of Alternates. This person <<will continue being gentle>> until he causes justice to win.

Matthew 12:21 Literal Alternate: The people of <<all>> nations will trust in this person's name. Dynamic Alternate: They'll trust this person." End of Alternates.

Footnote: See Isaiah 1:42.

Title: Certain people say that Jesus is possessed by a demon.

Matthew 12:22 Then people brought to Jesus a man who was possessed by a demon so that man was blind and so he was mute. Jesus healed that man. So that man became able to speak and see things.

Matthew 12:23 All of the people who were there were amazed. They asked each other, "Is it possible that this person is the Son of David <<, who is the Christ,>>?"

Matthew 12:24 But when the Pharisees heard those words, they said, "This man uses the power of Beelzebul, who is the ruler of demons, to force demons to leave people."

Matthew 12:25 Jesus knew the things that those Pharisees were thinking about. So he said to those Pharisees, "If a kingdom fights itself, it will destroy itself. And if a city fights itself, it will ruin itself. And if a family fights themselves, they'll ruin themselves.

Matthew 12:26 <<Similarly,>> if Satan forces his demons to leave people, he is fighting himself. Then is Satan's kingdom able to continue existing?

Matthew 12:27 And if I use Beelzebul's power to force demons to leave people, whose power do your people use to force demons to leave people? They'll judge you.

Matthew 12:28 But if I use the Holy Spirit's power to force demons to leave people, God's kingdom is here now.

Matthew 12:29 Similarly, is a person able to enter a strong man's house to steal his things unless he ties a strong man first? Then that person will be able to steal those things from that strong man's house.

Matthew 12:30 A person who doesn't work with me opposes me. Literal Alternate: And a person who doesn't gather my sheep scatters them. Dynamic Alternate: And he causes them not to follow me.

Matthew 12:31 So I tell the following words to you. Even if people blaspheme, all of their sins will be forgiven. But if a person blasphemes the Holy Spirit, he won't be forgiven.

Matthew 12:32 A person who blasphemes me, the Son of Man, will be forgiven. But if a person blasphemes the Holy Spirit, he'll be never forgiven. He won't be forgiven while he lives. And after that person dies, he won't be forgiven.

Matthew 12:33 If a person plants a good tree, its fruit will be good. And if a person plants a bad tree, its fruit will be bad. For people are able to know that a tree is bad or good by looking at its fruit.

Matthew 12:34 You, vipers' children, are you, who are evil, able to say a good thing? Literal Alternate: For the mouth says the things that the heart is full of. Dynamic Alternate: For people say the things that are in their hearts.

Matthew 12:35 Literal Alternate: A good person pulls good treasures out of the good treasures that he stores in his heart. Dynamic Alternate: He does good things. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: And an evil person pulls evil things out of the evil treasures that he stores in his heart. Dynamic Alternate: And he does evil things.

Matthew 12:36 But I tell you that on the day when God will judge all of the earth's people, each person will certainly need to explain his words. Each person will explain the reason why he said each word that he said even though he said it carelessly.

Matthew 12:37 For because of the words that you said, God will declare that you're innocent. Or because of the words that you said, he'll declare that you're guilty."

Title: The Pharisees ask Jesus to perform a miracle.

Matthew 12:38 Then some Pharisees and some Scribes said to Jesus, "Teacher, we want you to perform a miracle <<to show your power to us>>."

Matthew 12:39 Jesus answered, "Evil people and people who aren't faithful <<to God>> want to see a miracle! But a miracle won't be shown to these people except the miracle that was performed for the prophet named Jonah.

Matthew 12:40 For Jonah stayed for three days and three nights in a very big fish's stomach. Similarly, I, the Son of Man, will stay for three days and three nights in the earth.

Matthew 12:41 The people of <<the city named>> Nineveh will stand up on the day when God will judge all of the earth's people with this generation of people <<who live now>>. And they'll condemn this generation. For when Jonah taught those people, they repented. And behold. A person who is greater than Jonah is here.

Matthew 12:42 The queen of a southern country will stand up with this generation on the day when God will judge all of the earth's people. And she'll condemn this generation. For she came from the other side of the earth to listen to Solomon, who was very wise. And listen. A person who is greater than Solomon is here.

Matthew 12:43 When a demon leaves a person, he travels through dry places. That spirit tries to find a place where he is able to rest. But he doesn't find a place where he is able to rest.

Matthew 12:44 Literal Alternate: Then that spirit says <<to himself>>, 'I'll return to the house that I came from.' Dynamic Alternate: Then he says <<to himself>>, 'I'll return to the person that I came from. Dynamic Alternate: That person is like a house where I'll be able to live.' End of Alternates. When that spirit arrives, that house is empty and clean.

Matthew 12:45 <<If this generation doesn't repent,>> the same thing will happen to this generation.

Title: Jesus talks about his mother and his brothers.

Matthew 12:46 While Jesus was talking to the crowd, his mother and his brothers were standing outside the house <<where he was>>. For they wanted to talk to him.

Matthew 12:47 A person said to Jesus, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside the house because they want to talk to you."

Matthew 12:48 Jesus asked that person, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"

Matthew 12:49 Then Jesus pointed at his disciples and said, "My mother and my brothers are these disciples.

Matthew 12:50 For all of the people who do the things that my Father, who is in heaven, wants them to do are my brother, my sister, and my mother."

Title: Jesus tells a parable that is about a farmer who scatters seeds.

Matthew 13:1 That same day Jesus left the house <<where he was staying>>. And he sat down by the lake.

Matthew 13:2 Then a very big crowd gathered around Jesus. So Jesus went into a boat <<that was on the lake>>. And he sat in that boat while all of the people stood on the shore.

Matthew 13:3 Then Jesus started telling those people many things by telling parables. He said, "A farmer went <<from his house to his field>> to plant seeds.

Matthew 13:4 While that farmer was scattering those seeds, some of them fell on a path. And birds came and ate those seeds.

Matthew 13:5 Some of those seeds fell on ground that had many stones and didn't have a lot of soil. The plants grew quickly because the soil wasn't deep.

Matthew 13:6 But after the sun rose, those plants were burned. And those plants withered because they didn't have <<long>> roots.

Matthew 13:7 Other seeds fell among thorny plants. Those thorny plants grew and surrounded the plants that grew from those seeds. And the thorny plants caused the plants that grew from those seeds to die.

Matthew 13:8 Other seeds fell on good soil. Those seeds produced many plants. Some plants produced one hundred new seeds. Some plants produced 60 new seeds. And some plants produced thirty new seeds.

Matthew 13:9 You who have ears, listen to these words."

Matthew 13:10 <<After the crowd left,>> Jesus' disciples came <<to him>>. And they asked him, "Why do you speak to people by telling parables?"

Matthew 13:11 Jesus answered, "You're allowed to understand the secrets that are about the kingdom of heaven. But I use parables because some people aren't allowed to understand those secrets.

Matthew 13:12 A person who received things <<from God>> will receive more things <<from him>>. And that person will have very many things. A person who didn't receive things <<from God>> won't keep the things that he has. Those things will be taken from that person.

Matthew 13:13 Because of this reason, I speak to those people by telling parables. Those people see. Literal Alternate: But they don't see things. Dynamic Alternate: But they don't understand things. End of Alternates. They hear things. Literal Alternate: But they don't hear things. Dynamic Alternate: But they don't understand things.

Matthew 13:14 The things that were said through the prophet named Isaiah are being fulfilled. The scriptures <<say>>, 'You'll hear things <<that God does>>. But you'll never understand those things. You'll see things <<that God does>>. But you'll never understand those things.

Matthew 13:15 For these people's hearts don't understand quickly the things that are about God. These people's ears don't hear those things well. And these people closed their eyes. If these people were opening their eyes, they would see. If these people's ears were hearing those things well, they would hear them. Then they might understand those things in their hearts. And they might turn <<to me>>. If these people were turning to me, I would heal them.'

Footnote: See Isaiah 6:9-10.

Matthew 13:16 Literal Alternate: But you're blessed because your eyes see. Literal Alternate: And you're blessed because your ears hear things. Dynamic Alternate: But you're blessed because you understand things.

Matthew 13:17 For I'm telling the truth to you. Many prophets and righteous people wanted to see the things that you see. But those people didn't see these things. They wanted to hear the things that you hear. But they didn't hear these things.

Matthew 13:18 Listen to the following meaning of the parable that was about the farmer who scattered seeds.

Matthew 13:19 When a person hears the message that is about the kingdom <<of heaven>> and he doesn't understand it, Satan comes. And he takes away <<from that person's heart>> the message that is put there. In the parable that message is like the seeds that fell on the path.

Matthew 13:20 A person who hears the message and immediately receives it joyfully is like the seeds that fell on ground that had many stones.

Matthew 13:21 Literal Alternate: But that person will stop believing that message quickly because he doesn't have <<long>> roots. Dynamic Alternate: But he'll stop believing that message quickly because he doesn't believe it in his heart. End of Alternates. When that person has trouble and because of that message, he is persecuted, he'll stop following God quickly.

Matthew 13:22 A person who hears the message and worries about his life a lot is like the seeds that fell among the thorny plants. Literal Alternate: He is deceived by wealth. Dynamic Alternate: He thinks that if he has a lot of wealth, he'll be happy. Dynamic Alternate: But he is wrong. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: So the message isn't able to become strong. Dynamic Alternate: So that person thinks that the things that he desires are more important than the message. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: And the message isn't able to produce fruit. Dynamic Alternate: And it doesn't change that person <<so that he could do the things that please God>>.

Matthew 13:23 But a person who hears the message and understands it's like the seeds that fell on good soil. Those seeds are the seeds that produce many plants. Literal Alternate: Those plants produce one hundred new seeds, 60 new seeds, or thirty new seeds. Dynamic Alternate: God's message becomes in that person like a plant that produces one hundred new seeds, 60 new seeds, or thirty new seeds."

Title: Jesus tells a parable that is about weeds.

Matthew 13:24 Jesus told another parable to his disciples. He <<said>>, “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who scattered good seeds in his field.

Matthew 13:25 But while all of the people <<who lived with that man>> were sleeping, his enemy came. And he scattered seeds of weeds among the wheat. Then he walked away.

Matthew 13:26 When the wheat grew so it had grains, those weeds also appeared.

Matthew 13:27 That man's servants came to him and asked, “Master, didn't you scatter good seeds in your field? Where did these weeds come from?”

Matthew 13:28 That man answered, “An enemy planted these weeds.” The servants asked that man, “Do you want us to pull these weeds <<out of the field>>?”

Matthew 13:29 That man answered, “No. For while you're pulling these weeds out, you might also pull the wheat out.

Matthew 13:30 Let these weeds grow with the wheat until people harvest it. Then I'll tell the people who harvest the wheat, ‘Collect the weeds first. And tie those weeds and burn them. Then harvest the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

Title: Jesus tells a parable that is about a mustard seed.

Matthew 13:31 Jesus told another parable to his disciples. He said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man planted in his field.

Matthew 13:32 That seed is smaller than all other seeds. But after that seed is planted, it sprouts. And that plant grows and becomes bigger than all of the other plants that grow in the garden. Then it becomes a tree. So birds are able to rest on the branches of that tree.”

Matthew 13:33 Jesus told another parable to his disciples. He said, “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman mixes with a very big amount of flour until it spreads throughout the dough.”

Matthew 13:34 Jesus told all of these things to the crowd by using parables. He always told things to those people by using parables.

Matthew 13:35 Jesus <<said>> those things so that the things that God said through the prophet would be fulfilled. That prophet said, “I'll speak by telling parables. I'll say things that were hidden since the earth was created.”

Footnote: See Psalms 78:2.

Title: Jesus explains the parable that is about weeds.

Matthew 13:36 Then Jesus left that crowd and went into the house. Jesus' disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable that is about the weeds and were in a field.”

Matthew 13:37 Jesus said, "The man who scatters the good seeds is me, the Son of Man.

Matthew 13:38 The field is the earth. And the good seeds are the people of <<God's>> kingdom. The weeds are Satan's people.

Matthew 13:39 And the enemy who plants those weeds is Satan. The time when people gather grain is the end of this period of time. And the people who gather the grain are angels. <<Those angels gather people.>>

Matthew 13:40 Weeds are <<usually>> pulled <<out of the ground>> and are burned in fire. The same thing will happen at the end of this period of time.

Matthew 13:41 I, the Son of Man, will send my angels. And those angels will throw out of my kingdom all of the things that cause sin and all of the people who do evil things.

Matthew 13:42 Those angels will throw those people into a big furnace. <<That furnace is hell.>> The people who are there will weep. And they'll gnash their teeth <<because they'll suffer greatly>>.

Matthew 13:43 Then the righteous people will shine in their Father's kingdom like the sun shines. You who have ears, listen to these words.

Title: Jesus tells parables that are about people who find a treasure.

Matthew 13:44 The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that was hidden in a field and a man found. That man hid that treasure again. Then he left very joyfully and sold all of the things that he owned to buy that field.

Matthew 13:45 I'll tell another parable to you. The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant who is searching for valuable pearls.

Matthew 13:46 When that merchant found a pearl that was very valuable, he left. And he sold all of the things that he owned to buy that pearl.

Title: Jesus tells a parable that is about a net.

Matthew 13:47 I'll tell another parable to you. The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was put into a lake. That net caught all kinds of fish.

Matthew 13:48 After that net became full, the fishermen pulled it <<out of the water>>. And those fishermen put that net on the shore. Then they sat down to collect the good fish. And they put those good fish into baskets. But they threw the bad fish away.

Matthew 13:49 The same thing will happen at the end of this period of time. The angels will come and separate the evil people from the good people.

Matthew 13:50 Those angels will throw the evil people into the big furnace. <<That furnace is hell.>> The people who are there will weep. And they'll gnash their teeth <<because they'll suffer greatly>>."

Matthew 13:51 Jesus asked his disciples, "Do you understand all of these things?" Jesus' disciples answered, "Yes."

Matthew 13:52 Jesus said to those disciples, "Similarly, every Scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like an owner of a house. That person took new treasures and old treasures out of the room where he stored things."

Title: Jesus is a prophet that some people don't honor.

Matthew 13:53 After Jesus finished telling these parables, he left there.

Matthew 13:54 When Jesus arrived in the town <<named Nazareth>> that he was from, he started teaching the people about God's message in their synagogue. And those people were amazed. They asked each other, "Where did this man receive this wisdom and this power?"

Matthew 13:55 Is this man a carpenter's son? Is this man Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas?

Matthew 13:56 Aren't all of this man's sisters with us <<here>>? Where did this man receive these things?"

Matthew 13:57 And those people were upset with Jesus. Jesus said to those people, "A prophet is honored. But a prophet isn't honored by the people who are in his town and in his house."

Matthew 13:58 And Jesus didn't perform many miracles there because the people didn't have faith <<in him>>.

Title: The head of John the Baptist is cut off by Herod's soldiers.

Matthew 14:1 At that time Herod, who ruled that region, heard about the things that Jesus was doing.

Matthew 14:2 And Herod said to his officials, "This man is John the Baptist. God caused this man to rise from the dead! So this man is able to perform miracles."

Matthew 14:3 <<Earlier>> Herod's soldiers took John the Baptist away. They tied John the Baptist and because of Herodias <<, who was Herod's wife,>>, put John the Baptist in a prison. Before that time Herodias was the wife of Herod's brother Philip.

Matthew 14:4 <<Earlier>> John repeatedly said to Herod, "The Law doesn't allow you to marry your brother's wife."

Matthew 14:5 So Herod wanted to kill John. But Herod was afraid of the people because they thought that John was a prophet.

Matthew 14:6 One day Herod was celebrating his birthday <<at his palace>> with guests. Herodias' daughter danced for Herod and those guests and pleased him much.

Matthew 14:7 So Herod swore to Herodias' daughter that he'll give her the thing that Herodias' daughter asks him for.

Matthew 14:8 <<So Herodias' daughter went to her.>> Then Herodias told her daughter to say to Herod, "Give the head of John the Baptist to me on a big platter." So Herodias' daughter said that to Herod.

Matthew 14:9 Then Herod became very upset. But because of Herod's oaths, and because of his guests <<who heard him making them>>, he commanded soldiers to do the thing that the daughter asked <<him>> for.

Matthew 14:10 So Herod's soldier cut John's head off in the prison.

Matthew 14:11 John's head was brought on a big platter and given to that daughter. Then that daughter carried that head to her mother.

Matthew 14:12 <<After John's disciples heard that he was dead,>> they came <<to that prison>>. And they took John's body. They put John's body in a tomb. Then they left and told Jesus about John's death.

Title: Jesus provides food for five thousand people.

Matthew 14:13 After Jesus heard about John's death, he left there with his disciples in a boat to go with them to a place where no other people were. When people heard about the place where Jesus was going, they followed him by walking there from the towns <<that were in that region>>.

Matthew 14:14 Jesus arrived at the shore. When Jesus saw a big crowd <<there>>, he felt pity for those people. And he healed the sick people who were among those people.

Matthew 14:15 When it was almost evening, Jesus' disciples came to him. And they said <<to him>>, "People don't live here. And it's almost evening. Send these people from here so that they could go to villages to buy food for themselves."

Matthew 14:16 But Jesus said <<to those disciples>>, "These people don't need to leave here. You give food to these people so that they could eat."

Matthew 14:17 Those disciples said <<to Jesus>>, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish."

Matthew 14:18 Jesus said, "Bring those loaves of bread and those fish to me."

Matthew 14:19 Then Jesus commanded the people to sit down on the grass. He took those five loaves of bread and the two fish. Then he looked toward heaven and thanked God <<for that food>>. Jesus broke those loaves of bread into pieces. Then he gave those pieces to the disciples. And those disciples gave those pieces to the people.

Matthew 14:20 All of the people ate until they were satisfied. Then the disciples gathered the food that wasn't eaten. And they filled twelve baskets with pieces <<of food>>.

Matthew 14:21 The number of men who ate was about five thousand. And women and children also ate.

Title: Jesus walks on the water of the lake.

Matthew 14:22 <<After the people ate that food,>> Jesus immediately made his disciples enter a boat so that before he went there, they could go to the other side <<of the lake>>. While Jesus was sending the crowd from there, the disciples left.

Matthew 14:23 After Jesus sent the crowd from there, he went up a mountain to pray. Later that night he was alone <<still>>.

Matthew 14:24 The boat <<that Jesus' disciples were in>> already was far away from the land. The waves were hitting the boat. <<And the disciples weren't able to move the boat much.>> For the wind was blowing from the shore.

Matthew 14:25 In the very early morning Jesus came toward those disciples by walking on the lake.

Footnote: The Greek manuscripts says, "Fourth period." That period is between 3 am and 6 am.

Matthew 14:26 When those disciples saw Jesus walking on the lake, they became terrified. They said to each other, "That person is a ghost." And they screamed because they were afraid.

Matthew 14:27 But Jesus said immediately to those disciples, "Be brave! I'm Jesus. Don't be afraid."

Matthew 14:28 Peter said <<to Jesus>>, "Lord, if you're Jesus, tell me to walk to you on the water."

Matthew 14:29 Jesus said, "Come." Then Peter came out from the boat. He started walking on the water and came toward Jesus.

Matthew 14:30 But when Peter saw that there was a lot of wind, he became afraid. And he started sinking. So he cried out to Jesus, "Lord, save me!"

Matthew 14:31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand toward Peter and caught him. Jesus said, "You don't have a lot of faith <<in me>>. Why did you doubt <<that I was able to cause you to walk on water>>?"

Matthew 14:32 And when Jesus and Peter boarded the boat, the wind stopped blowing.

Matthew 14:33 Then the disciples who were in that boat worshiped Jesus. They said, "It's true that you're the Son of God."

Matthew 14:34 After the disciples and Jesus finished going <<across the lake>>, they came to the shore of <<the region named>> Gennesaret.

Matthew 14:35 When the people who lived there recognized Jesus, they started telling other people throughout the whole region that he was there. They brought all of their sick people to Jesus.

Matthew 14:36 And those people begged Jesus to let those sick people touch the edge of his clothes. And Jesus healed all of the sick people who touched his clothes.

Title: Jesus explains the things that defile a person.

Matthew 15:1 Then some Pharisees and some Scribes came from Jerusalem to Jesus.

Matthew 15:2 And those Pharisees and those Scribes asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples obey the <<religious>> traditions of our elders? Before your disciples eat, they don't wash their hands!"

Matthew 15:3 Jesus asked those Pharisees and those Scribes, "And why do you ignore the laws that God commanded you to obey to obey your <<religious>> customs?"

Matthew 15:4 For God said <<through Moses>>, 'Honor your father and your mother.' And God also said <<through Moses>>, 'A person who says evil things about his father or his mother must be killed.'

Footnote: See Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:16, Exodus 21:17, and Leviticus 20:9.

Matthew 15:5 But you say that a person may say to his father or his mother that the things that he has and that might help them are a gift that is for God.

Matthew 15:6 So that person won't honor his father or his mother by giving those things to that father or her. And so you ignore God's command by obeying your <<religious>> customs.

Matthew 15:7 You're hypocrites! Isaiah told correctly God's message that was about you.

Matthew 15:8 Literal Alternate: Isaiah said, 'These people honor me with their lips. Dynamic Alternate: He said, 'These people honor me with the words that they say. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: But these people's hearts are far from me. Dynamic Alternate: But actually these people don't care about me.

Matthew 15:9 These people worship me without a reason. For they teach <<religious>> customs that people made.'"

Footnote: See Isaiah 13:29.

Matthew 15:10 Jesus asked the crowd to come to him. Then he said, "Listen to me and understand the thing that I'm saying.

Matthew 15:11 Things that enter a person through his mouth aren't able to defile him. Instead, the things that come out from a person's mouth defile him."

Matthew 15:12 Then Jesus' disciples came <<to him>> and asked him, "Do you know that when the Pharisees heard those words, they were upset?"

Matthew 15:13 Jesus said, "Every plant that wasn't planted by my Father, who is in heaven, will be completely pulled out of the ground.

Footnote: Jesus was comparing people with plants. God's children are like plants that he plants.

Matthew 15:14 Ignore those Pharisees. Those Pharisees are like blind guides. If blind guides lead blind people, they'll fall into a hole."

Matthew 15:15 Peter said, "Explain that parable to us."

Matthew 15:16 Jesus asked those disciples, "Do you understand this parable?"

Matthew 15:17 Do you understand that those things that enter a person's mouth go into his stomach and that later they come out from his body?

Matthew 15:18 Literal Alternate: But the things that come out from a person's mouth come from his heart. Dynamic Alternate: But the words that a person says come from his heart. End of Alternates. And those things defile that person.

Matthew 15:19 For evil thoughts come from a person's heart. Because of those evil thoughts, a person might kill a person. Or that person might commit adultery. Or he might sleep with a person immorally. Or that person might steal things. Or he might say about another person things that aren't true. Or that person might say evil things that are about another person.

Matthew 15:20 Those actions defile a person. But if a person doesn't wash his hands before he eats, he doesn't become unclean."

Title: A woman who is a Gentile believes in Jesus.

Matthew 15:21 Then Jesus left there and went to the region that included <<the city named>> Tyre and <<the city named>> Sidon.

Matthew 15:22 A woman who was a Canaanite and was from that region came <<to Jesus>>. She cried out, "Lord, Son of David, feel pity for me! My daughter is possessed by a demon and suffers greatly."

Matthew 15:23 Jesus didn't answer. So Jesus' disciples came <<to him>> and urged him, "Tell that woman to leave. For that woman is repeatedly crying out to us."

Matthew 15:24 Jesus said to those disciples, "I was sent to the people of Israel who are like sheep that don't have a shepherd."

Matthew 15:25 Then that woman came <<to Jesus>> and knelt in front of him. She said, "Lord, help me!"

Matthew 15:26 Jesus said <<to that woman>>, "People shouldn't take bread away from children to give it to dogs."

Matthew 15:27 That woman said, "Lord, yes. But the dogs eat the small pieces of bread that fall from the table of their owner."

Matthew 15:28 Then Jesus said to that woman, "Woman, you have a lot of faith in me! I'll do the thing that you asked me to do." And that woman's daughter was healed immediately by Jesus.

Title: Jesus provides food for 4,000 people.

Matthew 15:29 Jesus left there and walked along the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up on the side of a mountain and sat down.

Matthew 15:30 Big crowds came to Jesus. Those people brought lame people, blind people, crippled people, mute people, and many other sick people <<to Jesus>>. And those sick people were put in front of Jesus. And Jesus healed those sick people.

Matthew 15:31 The crowd was amazed. For mute people started speaking. Crippled people started using those parts of their bodies. Lame people started walking. And blind people started seeing. So the crowd praised the God of Israel.

Matthew 15:32 Jesus called his disciples and said, "I feel pity for these people. For these people already stayed for three days with me. But they don't have food. I don't want to tell these people to leave. If I send these hungry people from here, while they are traveling, they might faint because they'll become weak."

Matthew 15:33 The disciples asked Jesus, "Where will we be able to get enough food for this big crowd in this wilderness?"

Matthew 15:34 Jesus asked those disciples, "How many loaves of bread do you have?" Those disciples answered, "We <<have>> seven loaves and a few small fish."

Matthew 15:35 Jesus told the people to sit down on the ground.

Matthew 15:36 Then Jesus took the seven loaves and the few fish. And after Jesus thanked God <<for the food>>, he broke it <<into pieces>>. He gave that food to his disciples. And those disciples gave that food to the people.

Matthew 15:37 All of the people ate. And all of them were satisfied. After the people finished eating, the disciples filled seven baskets with the pieces of food that they didn't eat.

Matthew 15:38 There were about 4,000 men who ate that bread and those fish. And women and children also ate.

Matthew 15:39 After Jesus sent that crowd from there, he boarded a boat. And he went to the region named Magadan.

Title: The Pharisees again ask Jesus to perform a miracle.

Matthew 16:1 Some Pharisees and some Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a miracle that came from heaven.

Matthew 16:2 Jesus said <<to those Pharisees and those Sadducees>>, "When the time is evening, you say, '<<Tomorrow>> the weather will be good. For the sky is red.'

Matthew 16:3 And in the morning you say, 'There will be a storm today. For the sky is red. And there are many dark clouds.' You know how to understand the weather by looking at the sky. But you aren't able to understand the signs of the things that are happening <<now>>.

Matthew 16:4 A generation that is evil and isn't faithful <<to God>> asks <<me>> for a miracle. But a miracle won't be shown to this generation except the miracle that was performed for the prophet named Jonah." Then Jesus left those Pharisees and those Sadducees and walked away.

Title: Jesus warns his disciples about the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

Matthew 16:5 When Jesus and his disciples went across the lake, they forgot to bring bread.

Matthew 16:6 Jesus said to those disciples, "Be careful. Watch out for the Pharisees' yeast and the Sadducees' yeast."

Matthew 16:7 Those disciples started talking to each other about the thing that Jesus said. And they said, "Jesus is saying this because we didn't bring bread."

Matthew 16:8 Jesus knew the things that those disciples were saying. So he said to those disciples, "You don't have a lot of faith <<in me>>. Why do you say to each other that you didn't bring bread?"

Matthew 16:9 Do you understand me? Do you remember the five loaves of bread that was given to five thousand people? And do you remember the number of baskets that you filled <<with bread and fish>>?"

Matthew 16:10 And do you remember the seven loaves of bread that was given to 4,000 people? And do you remember the number of baskets that you filled <<with bread that people didn't eat>>?"

Matthew 16:11 Why don't you understand that I wasn't talking to you about bread? Watch out for the Pharisees and the Sadducees' yeast."

Matthew 16:12 Then the disciples understood that Jesus wasn't telling them to watch out for yeast that is used in bread. Instead, Jesus was telling those disciples to watch out for the things that the Pharisees and the Sadducees were teaching <<people>> about.

Title: Peter declares that Jesus is the Christ.

Matthew 16:13 Jesus and his disciples came to the region named Caesarea Philippi. Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

Matthew 16:14 Those disciples answered, "Some people say that you <<are>> John the Baptist. Other people say that you <<are the prophet named>> Elijah. And other people <<say>> that you <<are>> Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Matthew 16:15 Jesus asked, "But you, who do you say that I am?"

Matthew 16:16 Simon answered, "You're the Christ. You're the Son of God, who lives."

Matthew 16:17 Jesus said, "Simon, Jonah's son, you're blessed. Literal Alternate: For this thing wasn't revealed to you by flesh and blood. Dynamic Alternate: For it wasn't revealed to you by a person. End of Alternates. Instead, it was told to you by my Father, who is in heaven.

Matthew 16:18 And I tell you that you're Peter. And I will build my church on this big stone. Literal Alternate: And the gates of hell won't defeat the church. Dynamic Alternate: And Satan's power won't defeat the church. End of Alternates.

Footnote: The Greek word 'Peter' means 'big stone'. The big stone that Jesus was talking about means Peter, Jesus, or the words that Peter said about him.

Matthew 16:19 Literal Alternate: I'll give the keys of the kingdom of heaven to you. Dynamic Alternate: I'll give the authority of the kingdom of heaven to you. End of Alternates. The things that you won't allow people to do on earth will be the things that won't be <<already>> allowed to be done in heaven. And the things that you allow people to do on earth will be the things that were <<already>> allowed to be done in heaven."

Matthew 16:20 Then Jesus warned his disciples not to tell people that he was the Christ.

Title: Jesus talks about his death.

Matthew 16:21 Then Jesus started explaining to his disciples that he has to go to Jerusalem and that the elders, the chief priests, and the Scribes will cause him to suffer greatly. He <<<<also>> said>> that he must be killed and that God will cause him to rise from the dead after three days.

Matthew 16:22 Peter led Jesus from the other disciples and started rebuking him. Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, God will save you from these things! These things will never happen to you!"

Matthew 16:23 But Jesus turned around Literal Alternate: And said to Peter, "Satan, go behind me! Dynamic Alternate: And Jesus said to Peter, "Stop saying the things that Satan tells you to say! End of Alternates. You're trying to cause me not to follow God. You aren't thinking about the things that God wants. Instead, you're thinking about the things that people want."

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If a person wants to be my disciple, he must stop caring about only himself. Literal Alternate: That person has to carry his cross. Dynamic Alternate: He has to be ready to suffer and die <<for me>>. End of Alternates. And that person has to follow me.

Matthew 16:25 Literal Alternate: For a person who wants to save his life will lose it. Dynamic Alternate: For a person who wants to continue living <<on this earth like he is living now>> won't live <<with God forever>>. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: But a person who loses his life for me will find it. Dynamic Alternate: But if a person is willing to die for me, he'll live <<with God forever>>.

Matthew 16:26 If a person loses his soul, what does he gain by owning the whole earth? And what is he able to give to buy his soul?

Matthew 16:27 For I, the Son of Man, will come with my angels in my Father's glory. Then I, the Son of Man, will give a reward to each person for the good things that each person did. And because of the bad things that each person did, I, the Son of Man, will punish him.

Matthew 16:28 I'm telling the truth to you. Some of the people who are standing here won't die until they see me, the Son of Man, coming in my kingdom.

Title: Jesus is changed on a mountain.

Matthew 17:1 After six days Jesus led Peter, James, and John to a tall mountain. And Jesus, Peter, James, and John, who was James' brother, went up that mountain where there weren't other people.

Matthew 17:2 Then Jesus was changed in front of Peter, James, and John. Jesus' face shined like the sun shines. And Jesus' clothes became extremely white like light is extremely white.

Matthew 17:3 Then Moses and Elijah appeared in front of Peter, James, John, and Jesus and were talking to him.

Matthew 17:4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it's good that we are here. If you want me to set shelters up, I'll set three shelters up. One shelter will be for you. One shelter will be for Moses. And one shelter will be for Elijah."

Matthew 17:5 While Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud covered the disciples, Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. And a voice spoke from that cloud. That voice said, "This person is my Son, whom I love. This person pleases me much. Listen to this person!"

Matthew 17:6 When the disciples heard that voice, they fell. And they put their faces on the ground. They were terrified.

Matthew 17:7 But Jesus came and touched the disciples. He said, "Get up. Don't be afraid."

Matthew 17:8 When the followers looked up, they didn't see people except Jesus. <<Moses and Elijah weren't there.>>

Matthew 17:9 While Jesus and the disciples were coming down from that mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Don't tell people about the thing that you saw on this mountain until God causes me, the Son of Man, to rise from the dead."

Matthew 17:10 The disciples asked Jesus, "Why do the Scribes say that <<before the Christ comes,>> Elijah has to come first?"

Matthew 17:11 Jesus answered those disciples, "Elijah certainly comes first and will restore all things.

Matthew 17:12 But I tell you that Elijah already came. And people didn't realize that that person was Elijah. Instead, they did all of the evil things that they wanted to do to Elijah. Similarly, I, the Son of Man, will suffer because people will treat me, the Son of Man, cruelly."

Matthew 17:13 Then the disciples understood that Jesus was talking to them about John the Baptist.

Title: Jesus heals a boy who is possessed by a demon.

Matthew 17:14 Jesus and the disciples came to a crowd <<that was at the bottom of that mountain>>. Then a man <<who was in that crowd>> came to Jesus. And that man knelt in front of Jesus.

Matthew 17:15 That man said <<to Jesus>>, "Lord, feel pity for my son. Sometimes my son violently shakes and suffers greatly. He falls into fire or into water often.

Matthew 17:16 I brought my son to your disciples. But your disciples weren't able to heal my son."

Matthew 17:17 Jesus asked that crowd, "You, generation that doesn't believe in God and is evil, how long do I have to stay with you? How long do I have to be patient with you? Bring the boy to me."

Matthew 17:18 <<So that man brought that boy to Jesus.>> Then Jesus rebuked the demon. And that demon came out from that boy. That boy was healed immediately.

Matthew 17:19 Then when no other people were there, the disciples came to Jesus. And they asked, "Why weren't we able to force that demon to leave that boy?"

Matthew 17:20 Jesus answered the disciples, "You weren't able to force that demon to leave that boy because you have little faith in God. I tell you the truth. Even if your faith is small like a mustard seed is small, you'll be able to say to this mountain, 'Move from here there.' And that mountain will move. There won't be something that you aren't able to do."

Matthew 17:21

Footnote: Some copies of this part of the scriptures include the words that are in Mark 9:29. "And Jesus said to those disciples, 'You need to pray to cause this kind of spirit to leave a person.'"

Title: Jesus talks about his death again.

Matthew 17:22 Then Jesus and the disciples met in Galilee. Jesus said to those disciples, “I, the Son of Man, will be betrayed soon.

Matthew 17:23 My enemies will kill me, the Son of Man. But after three days God will cause me, the Son of Man, to rise from the dead.” Then the disciples became extremely sad.

Title: Jesus talks about taxes.

Matthew 17:24 After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, tax collectors came to Peter. They collected the tax that was for the temple. That tax was two silver Greek coins. Those tax collectors asked Peter, “Does your master pay the tax that is for the temple?”

Footnote: One silver Greek coin was about the amount of wages that a man received when he worked for one day.

Matthew 17:25 Peter answered those tax collectors, “Yes.” When Peter entered the house <<where Jesus was staying>>, Jesus spoke first. He said, “Simon, do you think that the tax collectors of the kings of the earth collect taxes from their children or other people?”

Matthew 17:26 Peter answered, “Those kings collect taxes from other people.” Jesus said to Peter, “Then the kings' children don't need to pay taxes.

Matthew 17:27 But we don't want to offend those tax collectors. So go to the lake and catch a fish there. Take the first fish that you catch. Open that fish's mouth. And you'll find a coin that is the amount of money of four silver Greek coins. Take that coin and give it to those tax collectors to pay my tax and your tax.”

Title: Jesus talks about the greatest disciple.

Matthew 18:1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Then who is the greatest person in the kingdom of heaven?”

Matthew 18:2 Jesus called a small child and put him among those disciples.

Matthew 18:3 Then Jesus said, “I'm telling the truth to you. You'll never enter the kingdom of heaven unless you change yourselves so that you would become like small children.

Matthew 18:4 Therefore, a person who doesn't think that he is more important than other people so he is like this child is the greatest person in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:5 Literal Alternate: If a person welcomes in my name a child who is like this child, he welcomes me. Dynamic Alternate: If because of me, a person welcomes a child who is like this child, he welcomes me.

Title: Jesus warns his disciples about sins.

Matthew 18:6 It's terrible that after a heavy stone is tied <<with a rope>> around that person's neck, he is thrown into the sea and that he drowns. But the things that will happen to a person who causes one of these children who believe in me to sin will be more terrible.

Matthew 18:7 Because of the things that cause people to sin, the people of the world will have trouble! Those things have to happen. But the person who causes other people to sin through those things will have a lot of trouble.

Matthew 18:8 If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut them off. And throw that hand or that foot away. It's bad that you cut that hand or that foot off. But it's much worse that you're thrown into hell, where fire always burns, because you didn't cut that hand or that foot off.

Matthew 18:9 And if your eye causes you to sin, take it out. And throw that eye away. It's bad that you took that eye out. But it's much worse that you're thrown into hell, where fire always burns, because you didn't take that eye out.

Title: Jesus tells a story that is about a lost sheep.

Matthew 18:10 Literal Alternate: Don't think that one of these children <<who believe in me>> isn't valuable. Dynamic Alternate: Know that these children who believe in me are valuable. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: For I tell you that these children's angels who are in heaven always see the face of my Father, who is in there. Dynamic Alternate: For I tell you that these children's angels who are in heaven always are with my Father, who is in there.

Matthew 18:11

Footnote: Many manuscripts of this part of the scriptures don't include this verse. But certain manuscripts include words that are like the words that are in Luke 19:10. That verse says the following words. "The Son of Man came to search for the people who are lost. And he came to save the people who are lost."

Matthew 18:12 Think carefully about the story that I'll tell to you. A person had one hundred sheep. And one of those sheep walked away <<so that sheep became lost>>. Will that person leave the 99 sheep on the hills to search for the sheep that walked away?

Matthew 18:13 I'm telling the truth to you. If that person finds that lost sheep, he becomes very happy. He is happy because he found that sheep more than he is happy because the 99 sheep didn't walk away.

Matthew 18:14 Similarly, your Father who is in heaven doesn't want one of these children <<who believe in me>> to die eternally.

Title: Jesus talks about brothers who sin and about sisters who sin.

Matthew 18:15 If your brother or your sister sins, go to that person alone. And tell that person that the things that he did were bad. Literal Alternate: If that person listens to you, you helped him. Dynamic Alternate: If that person repents, you'll have a good relationship with him again.

Matthew 18:16 But if that person doesn't listen to you, go to him with one or two <<other>> brothers <<or sisters>> again. Go with those brothers <<or sisters>> so that two or three brothers or sisters would agree that that person is sinning. Then those brothers or sisters will be able to testify to the leaders of the church about the things that that person did.

Footnote: See Deuteronomy 19:15.

Matthew 18:17 If that person still refuses to listen to you, tell the leaders of the church that he is sinning. And if that person refuses to listen to the leaders of the church, treat him like you treat Gentiles or tax collectors.

Matthew 18:18 I'm telling the truth to you. The things that you don't allow people on earth to do will be the things that weren't already allowed by God in heaven to happen. And the things that you allow people on earth to do will be the things that were already allowed by God in heaven to happen.

Matthew 18:19 I'm telling the truth to you. If two of you who are on earth agree to pray about something, it will be done for you by my Father, who is in heaven.

Matthew 18:20 Literal Alternate: For whenever two or three brothers or sisters meet in my name in a place <<to pray and to worship me>>, I'm with those people there. Dynamic Alternate: For whenever two or three brothers or sisters meet in a place to pray to me <<and to worship me>>, I'm with those people there."

Title: Jesus tells a parable that is about a servant who isn't merciful.

Matthew 18:21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked him, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or my sister who sins against me? Should I forgive that brother or sister seven times?"

Matthew 18:22 Jesus answered, "I don't tell you that you have to forgive your brother or your sister seven times. Instead, I tell you to forgive that brother or that sister 77 times.

Footnote: Some people think that these Greek words mean 490 times.

Matthew 18:23 Therefore, I'll compare the kingdom of heaven with a king who wanted to collect the money that his servants owed to him.

Matthew 18:24 When that king started collecting that money, a man who owed 10,000 bags of gold to him was brought to him.

Footnote: One bag of gold was like the wage that a man received when he worked for twenty years.

Matthew 18:25 That man wasn't able to pay that money. So the king, who was that man's master, commanded him, his wife, his children, and all of the things that he owned to be sold so that his debt would be paid.

Matthew 18:26 Then that servant knelt in front of that king and begged, 'Please be patient with me. I'll pay all of the money.'

Matthew 18:27 The king, who was that servant's master, felt pity for him. So the king told that servant that he didn't need to pay his debt. And the king let that servant leave.

Matthew 18:28 But when that servant went out <<from the king's palace>>, he saw another servant who owed one hundred silver coins to him. The first servant grabbed that other servant tightly and started squeezing his neck. That first servant said, 'Pay the money that you owe to me.'

Footnote: One silver coin was about the amount of wages that a man received when he worked for one day.

Matthew 18:29 The other servant knelt in front of that first servant and begged, 'Please be patient with me. I'll pay all of the money <<to you>>.'

Matthew 18:30 But that first servant refused to be patient with the other servant. Instead, he left and caused the other servant to be put into a prison so that he would stay there until he paid the debt.

Matthew 18:31 After the other servants saw the thing that that first servant did, they became very upset. So they went to the king, who was their master, to tell the king about the thing that happened.

Matthew 18:32 Then the king called that <<first>> servant and said, 'Evil servant, I told you that you didn't need to pay your big debt because you begged me to be patient with you.'

Matthew 18:33 Shouldn't you feel pity for the other servant like I felt pity for you?'

Matthew 18:34 The king was very angry. So he commanded the prison officers to take the first servant and to torture him until he pays all of the money that he owed <<to him>>.

Matthew 18:35 If you don't forgive your brother or sister in your heart, my Father, who is in heaven, will treat you like that king treated that servant."

Title: Jesus teaches about people who divorce.

Matthew 19:1 After Jesus said those things, he left Galilee. And he went to the region named Judea, which was on the other side of the Jordan River.

Matthew 19:2 Big crowds followed Jesus. And Jesus healed among those crowds the people <<who were sick>>.

Matthew 19:3 Some Pharisees came to Jesus to test him. They asked, "Does the Law allow a man to divorce his wife for a reason?"

Matthew 19:4 Jesus answered, "Did you read the scriptures? God made male people and female people when he made all things first.

Footnote: See Genesis 1:27.

Matthew 19:5 Did you read in the scriptures that God said the following words? God said, 'Therefore, a man will leave his father and his mother. And that man will be joined to his wife. So those two people will become one body.'

Footnote: See Genesis 2:24.

Matthew 19:6 Then those people aren't two people. They are one body. Don't let a person separate that man from his wife because God joined that man to her."

Matthew 19:7 Those Pharisees asked, "Then why did Moses say that before a man may send his wife from him, he has to give her a document that says that that woman won't continue being his wife?"

Footnote: See Deuteronomy 24:1.

Matthew 19:8 Jesus answered, "Moses allowed you to divorce your wives because your hearts were stubborn. But when God made all things first, he didn't allow men to divorce their wives.

Matthew 19:9 I tell you that a man who divorces his wife and marries another woman sins against his previous wife by sleeping with another woman. But if that wife sleeps with another man, he may divorce her."

Matthew 19:10 Jesus' disciples said to him, "If men aren't allowed to divorce their wives, it's better that they don't marry women."

Matthew 19:11 Jesus said, "Some people aren't able to accept these words. Primary: The only people who are able to accept these words are the people that were caused by God to be able not to marry people. Alternate 1: The only people who are able to accept these words are the people that were caused by God to be able to accept them.

Matthew 19:12 For there are men who were eunuchs when they were born. And there are men that other people caused to become eunuchs. And there are men who choose because of the kingdom of heaven, to live like eunuchs live. A person who is able to accept these words should accept them."

Title: Jesus prays that God will bless children.

Matthew 19:13 Then people brought young children to Jesus so that he would put his hands on them and so that he would pray for them. But Jesus' disciples rebuked those people. <<They thought that those people were bothering Jesus.>>

Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said to those disciples, "Let the young children come to me. Don't prevent these children from coming. For God's kingdom belongs to people who are like these children."

Matthew 19:15 After Jesus put his hands on those children, he left there.

Title: Jesus answers a rich man's question.

Matthew 19:16 <<While Jesus and his disciples were traveling,>> a man came to Jesus. Literal Alternate: And that man asked Jesus, "Master, which good thing should I do so that I can have eternal life?" Dynamic Alternate: And that man asked Jesus, "Master, which good thing should I do so that I can live with God forever?"

Matthew 19:17 Jesus answered, "Why do you ask me about a good thing? No person is good. Only God is good. If you want to live with God forever, obey his commands."

Matthew 19:18 That man asked, "Which commandments do I have to obey?" Jesus answered, "The scriptures say, 'Don't kill a person. Don't commit adultery. Don't steal things. Don't say false things about a person.

Matthew 19:19 Honor your father and your mother. Literal Alternate: And love your neighbor like you love yourself. Dynamic Alternate: Love other people like you love yourself.'" End of Alternates.

Footnote: See Exodus 20:12-16, Deuteronomy 5:16-20, and Leviticus 19:18.

Matthew 19:20 That young man said to Jesus, "I always obeyed those commands <<since I was young>>. Literal Alternate: Which other things do I have to do <<to have eternal life>>?" Dynamic Alternate: Which other things do I have to do <<to live with God forever>>?"

Matthew 19:21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all of your possessions. And give the money to poor people. Then you'll have a treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me."

Matthew 19:22 When that young man heard those words, he walked away. He was sad because he had a lot of wealth. <<And he didn't want to sell all of his possessions.>>

Matthew 19:23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth. It's difficult for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 19:24 I'm telling these things to you again. It's very difficult for a big camel to go through the hole of a needle. But it's extremely difficult for a rich person to enter God's kingdom."

Matthew 19:25 When the disciples heard those words, they became very amazed. And they asked Jesus, "Then who will be saved?"

Matthew 19:26 Jesus looked at those disciples and said, "It isn't possible that humans save themselves. But God is able to do all things. <<So it's possible that God saves people.">>

Matthew 19:27 Peter said to Jesus, "We left all things to follow you! So what will we receive?"

Matthew 19:28 Jesus said to the disciples, "I tell the truth to you. When all things are restored and I, the Son of Man, sit on my great throne, you, who follow me, will also sit on twelve thrones. And you'll judge the twelve Israel tribes.

Matthew 19:29 And a person who because of me, left his house, his children, his brothers, his sisters, his father, that person's mother, that person's wife, or that person's field will receive one hundred times

the amount of things that that person left. Literal Alternate: And he'll inherit eternal life. Dynamic Alternate: And he'll live with God forever.

Matthew 19:30 Literal Alternate: But many people who are first now will be last in the future. Dynamic Alternate: But many people who are most important now will be the least important in the future. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: And many people who are last now will be first in the future. Dynamic Alternate: And many people who are the least important now will be most important in the future.

Title: Jesus tells a parable that is about people who work in a vineyard.

Matthew 20:1 For the kingdom of heaven is like a land owner. That person left his house in the early morning to find people who will work in his vineyard.

Matthew 20:2 <<That man found some people.>> He agreed after those people worked in his vineyard for one day, to pay a denarius to them. Then he sent those people into his vineyard.

Footnote: A denarius was the amount of the wage that a man received when he worked for one day.

Matthew 20:3 When it was 9 am, that man left again. And he saw other people who were standing in the market and that weren't working.

Matthew 20:4 That man said to those people, "Go into my vineyard like the other people went into my vineyard. <<And work there.>> And I will pay you the right amount of money."

Matthew 20:5 So those people went to the vineyard. When it was about 12 pm, that man left again. And when it was about 3 pm, he left again. Each time he found <<more>> people who will work in his vineyard.

Matthew 20:6 When it was about 5 pm, that man left again. And he found more people who were standing and weren't working. He asked those people, "Why are you standing here? Why weren't you working during the whole day?"

Matthew 20:7 Those people answered, "We aren't working because no person hired us." That man said to those people, "Go into my vineyard like the other people went into my vineyard. <<And work there.>>"

Matthew 20:8 When it was evening, the owner of that vineyard said to his chief worker, "Call the workers and pay their wages to them. Pay first the workers who came last. Then pay last the workers who came first."

Matthew 20:9 So the workers who were hired at about 5 pm came to that man. And each of those workers received a denarius.

Matthew 20:10 Therefore, the people who were hired first thought that they'll receive more money than one denarius. But when those people came to that man, they also received one denarius.

Matthew 20:11 After those workers received that denarius, they started complaining about the owner of the vineyard.

Matthew 20:12 Those workers said to that man, "The workers who started working last worked for only one hour. But you gave those workers the same money that you gave to us. We worked for the whole day when it was hot."

Matthew 20:13 But that man answered one of those workers, 'Friend, I'm not cheating you. Did you agree after you work, to receive one denarius?'

Matthew 20:14 Take your denarius and leave. I want to give an equal amount of money to the workers who started working last.

Matthew 20:15 Am I allowed to use my money like I want to use it? Are you jealous because I'm generous?'

Matthew 20:16 Literal Alternate: So the people who are last now will be first in the future. Dynamic Alternate: So the people who are the least important now will be most important in the future. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: And the people who are first now will be last in the future. Dynamic Alternate: And the people who are most important now will be the least important in the future."

Title: Jesus talks about his death a third time.

Matthew 20:17 Jesus was going to Jerusalem. While Jesus and his disciples were traveling, he took the twelve disciples away from the other people. And Jesus said to those disciples,

Matthew 20:18 "We are going to Jerusalem. And I, the Son of Man, will be given to the chief priests and the Scribes. Those priests and those Scribes will judge me, the Son of Man, and decide that I, the Son of Man, have to die.

Matthew 20:19 And those priests and those Scribes will give me, the Son of Man, to the Gentiles. Those Gentiles will mock me, the Son of Man. I, the Son of Man, will be whipped by those Gentiles and be crucified by them. But after three days I, the Son of Man, will rise from the dead!"

Title: Two disciples' mother asks Jesus to honor her sons.

Matthew 20:20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons named James and John came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt in front of Jesus and asked him to do something for her.

Matthew 20:21 So Jesus asked that mother, "What do you want me to do for you?" That mother said, "Let my two sons sit in your kingdom on important seats beside you. Let one of my sons sit at your right side. And let my other son sit at your left side."

Matthew 20:22 Jesus said to that mother, James, and John, "You don't understand the thing that you're asking me for. Literal Alternate: Are you able to drink from the cup the bitter drink that I'll drink soon?" Dynamic Alternate: Are you ready for the same difficult things that will happen to me to happen to you soon?" End of Alternates. James and John answered, "Yes."

Matthew 20:23 Literal Alternate: Jesus said to James and John, "You'll certainly drink that bitter drink from my cup. Dynamic Alternate: Jesus said to James and John, "The difficult things that will happen to me will certainly happen to you. End of Alternates. But I don't have authority to choose the people who will sit at my right side and at my left side. Those seats belong to the people that they were prepared for by my Father."

Matthew 20:24 When the ten other disciples heard about the thing that James and John asked Jesus for, they became angry with those two brothers.

Matthew 20:25 Jesus called the twelve disciples and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles like showing those Gentiles that they have power. And officials use their authority to make those Gentiles obey those officials.

Matthew 20:26 But you should act differently. Instead, if a person wants to become great among you, he should become your servant.

Matthew 20:27 Literal Alternate: And if a person wants to become first among you, he should become your servant. Dynamic Alternate: And if a person wants to lead other people, he should serve them like a servant serves other people.

Matthew 20:28 Similarly, I, the Son of Man, didn't come to this earth so that people would serve me, the Son of Man. But I, the Son of Man, came to this earth to serve people and to die so that many people would become free."

Title: Jesus heals two blind men.

Matthew 20:29 <<Jesus and his disciples came to <<the town named>> Jericho while they continued traveling to Jerusalem.>> When Jesus left Jericho, a big crowd followed him.

Matthew 20:30 Two blind men were sitting beside the road. And after those blind men heard Jesus walking past them, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, be merciful to us!"

Matthew 20:31 People who were in the crowd rebuked those men. And they told those men to become quiet. But those men started more loudly shouting, "Lord, Son of David, be merciful to us!"

Matthew 20:32 <<When Jesus heard those two men,>> he stopped walking. And he called those men. He asked, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Matthew 20:33 Those men answered, "Lord, we want to be able to see."

Matthew 20:34 Jesus felt pity for those men and touched their eyes. Those men immediately became able to see. And they followed Jesus.

Title: Jesus enters Jerusalem like a king enters a city.

Matthew 21:1 Before Jesus and his disciples came to Jerusalem, they came to <<the village named>> Bethphage, which was on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two disciples <<to the next village>>.

Matthew 21:2 Jesus said to those two disciples, "Go to the village that is in front of you. And when you enter that village, you'll immediately find a donkey that was tied with a rope to a post. That donkey will be with its colt. Untie that donkey and bring it and its colt to me."

Matthew 21:3 If a person says something to you, tell him that the master needs that donkey and its colt. And that person will immediately send that donkey and its colt to me."

Matthew 21:4 Those things happened so that the words that were said by God through the prophet would be fulfilled.

Matthew 21:5 That prophet said, "God says, 'Speak to my people who are my daughter Zion. Say, "Behold. Your king comes to you. He is humble and is riding on a donkey's colt."'"

Footnote: See Zechariah 9:9.

Matthew 21:6 So those disciples left and did the things that Jesus told them to do.

Matthew 21:7 Those disciples brought that donkey and its colt to Jesus and put their coats on them. And Jesus sat on those coats.

Matthew 21:8 Very many people put their coats on the road in front of Jesus <<to honor him>>. And they cut branches from trees and put them on the road <<to honor Jesus>>.

Matthew 21:9 Some people were walking in front of Jesus. And other people were walking behind Jesus. All of those people were shouting, "Praise the Son of David! Literal Alternate: The person who comes in the Lord's name is blessed. Dynamic Alternate: The person who comes with God's authority is blessed! End of Alternates. Praise God, who is in heaven!"

Footnote: The people shouted, "Hosanna." The word 'Hosanna' means, "Save us." But 'Hosanna' also meant during the time when Matthew lived, "Praise God." Footnote: See Psalms 118:25-26.

Matthew 21:10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, all of the people who were in that city were amazed. And they asked the crowd that was following Jesus, "Who is this man?"

Matthew 21:11 The crowd answered, "This man is Jesus. Jesus is the prophet who comes from Nazareth of Galilee."

Title: Jesus enters the temple.

Matthew 21:12 Jesus entered the courtyard of the temple. He started forcing the people who were buying sacrifices and the people who were selling sacrifices to leave that temple. He knocked over the tables of the people who were trading money and the seats of the people who were selling doves <<that people sacrificed to God>>.

Matthew 21:13 Jesus said to those people, "The scriptures say, 'My house will be called a house where people pray to me.' But you caused this house to become like a cave where thieves gather."

Footnote: See Isaiah 56:7 and Jeremiah 11:7.

Matthew 21:14 Blind people and lame people came to Jesus while he was in that temple. And Jesus healed those people.

Matthew 21:15 The chief priests and the Scribes saw the wonderful things that Jesus did and heard children shouting in the courtyard of the temple. Those children were shouting, "Praise the Son of David!" So those chief priests and those Scribes became upset.

Matthew 21:16 Those chief priests and those Scribes asked Jesus, "Do you hear the words that these children are saying?" Jesus answered, "Yes. Did you read the part of the scriptures that says, 'Lord, you teach children and babies that they praise you'?"

Footnote: See Psalms 8:2.

Matthew 21:17 Then Jesus left those priests and those Scribes. He left the city to go to <<the village named>> Bethany. And he slept there.

Title: Jesus curses a fig tree.

Matthew 21:18 In the early morning of the next day, while Jesus and his disciples were returning to the city, he became hungry.

Matthew 21:19 Jesus saw a fig tree that was by the road. So he went to that fig tree. But he saw that there wasn't fruit on that fig tree. That fig tree had only leaves. Then Jesus said to that fig tree, "May fruit never grow on you again!" That fig tree withered immediately.

Matthew 21:20 When the disciples saw that the fig tree withered, they became amazed. They asked Jesus, "How did this fig tree wither very quickly?"

Matthew 21:21 Jesus answered, "I'm telling you the truth. If you have faith in God, and if you don't doubt, you'll be able to do the thing that was done to this fig tree. And if you tell this mountain to jump into the sea, this mountain will jump into the sea.

Matthew 21:22 If you believe in God, you'll receive all of the things that you ask him for when you pray.”

Title: Jesus talks about his authority.

Matthew 21:23 <<Jesus and his disciples arrived in Jerusalem.>> Jesus entered the courtyard of the temple again. While Jesus was teaching there, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. They asked Jesus, “With which authority do you do these things? And who gave that authority to you?”

Matthew 21:24 Jesus answered, “I'll also ask you one question. If you answer my question, I'll tell you about the authority that I have to do these things.

Matthew 21:25 John had authority to baptize people in water. Did John's authority come from heaven? Or did it come from people?” Those chief priests and those elders talked to each other about this question. They said, “We might say, ‘John's authority came from heaven.’ But Jesus will ask us, ‘Then why didn't you believe John's message?’

Matthew 21:26 But we shouldn't say, ‘John's authority came from people’ Because we are afraid of the crowd. For all of these people think that John was a prophet.”

Matthew 21:27 So those chief priests and those elders answered Jesus, “We don't know the answer.” Then Jesus said to those chief priests and those elders, “Then I won't tell you about the authority that I have to do these things.”

Title: Jesus tells a parable that is about two sons.

Matthew 21:28 Jesus said, “Think carefully about the parable that I'll tell you. There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first son and said, ‘Son, go. And today work in the vineyard.’

Matthew 21:29 That son answered, ‘I won't go there.’ But later he changed his mind and went to the vineyard.

Matthew 21:30 Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. That son answered, ‘Father, I'll go there.’ But he didn't go to the vineyard.

Matthew 21:31 Which son did the thing that the father wanted them to do?” The priests and the elders answered, “The first son did the thing that the father wanted them to do.” Jesus said to those priests and those elders, “I'm telling you the truth. Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering God's kingdom instead of you.

Matthew 21:32 For you didn't believe the message of John the Baptist even though John the Baptist came to you to explain how people will become righteous. But the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed the message of John the Baptist. And after you saw that those tax collectors and those prostitutes repented, you still refused to repent. And you still refused to believe the message of John the Baptist.”

Title: Jesus tells a parable that is about certain evil farmers.

Matthew 21:33 Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. A certain man's servants planted a vineyard on his land. They built a wall around that vineyard. They built a winepress and built a tower so that they could watch that vineyard from it. Then that man rented that vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place.

Matthew 21:34 When the grapes were almost ready so that people can harvest them soon, that man sent his servants to those farmers to collect his fruit from them.

Matthew 21:35 <<After that man's servants arrived in the vineyard,>> those farmers grabbed them. And they beat one of those servants. They killed another servant and stoned another servant.

Matthew 21:36 Then that man sent other servants to those farmers. He sent many more servants. And those farmers treated those servants like they treated the first servants.

Matthew 21:37 Finally that man sent his son to those farmers. That man thought, 'Those farmers will certainly respect my son.'

Matthew 21:38 But when the farmers saw that son <<who was arriving in the vineyard>>, they said to each other, 'After this person's father dies, this person will inherit this vineyard. Come. Let's kill this person so that his vineyard can become our vineyard.'

Matthew 21:39 So those farmers grabbed that son. They took that son from that vineyard and killed him.

Matthew 21:40 Therefore, when the owner of that vineyard comes, what will he do to those farmers?"

Matthew 21:41 The priests and the elders answered, "That owner will violently kill those evil farmers and will rent that vineyard to other farmers. After those farmers harvest the crops in that vineyard, they'll give that owner's crops to him."

Matthew 21:42 Jesus asked those priests and those elders, "Did you read the following words that were in the scriptures? The scriptures say, 'Certain people who were building a building refused to use a certain stone. Literal Alternate: But that stone became the chief corner stone of the building. Dynamic Alternate: But it became the building's most important stone. End of Alternates. The Lord did this. And we see that this thing is wonderful.'

Footnote: See Psalms 118:22-23.

Matthew 21:43 Therefore, I tell you that God's kingdom won't be given to you. Literal Alternate: Instead, God's kingdom will be given to people who will produce fruit that belongs to the kingdom. Dynamic Alternate: Instead, God's kingdom will be given to people who live like people who belong to him. Dynamic Alternate: Instead, God will accept the people who live like people who belong to him.

Matthew 21:44 If a person falls on this stone, he'll break into pieces. If this stone falls on a person, he'll be crushed."

Footnote: When Jesus said the word 'stone', he was talking about himself. Footnote: Some manuscripts of this part of the scriptures don't have this verse.

Matthew 21:45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew that those parables were about them. <<They knew that Jesus thought that they were like the evil farmers.>>

Matthew 21:46 So those chief priests and those Pharisees wanted to arrest Jesus. But they were afraid of the crowd because the people thought that Jesus was a prophet.

Title: Jesus tells a parable that is about a wedding.

Matthew 22:1 Jesus told a parable <<to those Pharisees>> again. He said,

Matthew 22:2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son.

Matthew 22:3 <<After the servants finished preparing the feast,>> that king sent them to the people that he had invited to it to call them. But those people refused to come.

Matthew 22:4 Then that king sent more servants and said to them, 'Tell the people that I invited <<to the feast>> that I prepared it. My ox and my fat cattle were slaughtered. And all of the things are prepared. Come to the feast!'

Matthew 22:5 But the people ignored the servants <<who were sent to them by the king>>. And they left. One person went to his field. And another person went to the place where he worked.

Matthew 22:6 The other people grabbed that king's servants. They treated those servants very badly and killed them.

Matthew 22:7 Then the king became very angry. He sent his army so that it would destroy the people who killed those servants and so that it would burn those people's city.

Matthew 22:8 Then the king said to his <<other>> servants, 'The wedding feast is ready. But the people that I invited <<to the feast>> don't deserve to come <<to it>>.

Matthew 22:9 So go to the corners of the <<big>> streets and invite <<to the meal>> all of the people that you'll find.'

Matthew 22:10 So those servants went on the streets and gathered all of the people that they found. They gathered evil people and good people. And because of the many guests, the room where the feast was became full.

Matthew 22:11 But when the king entered that room to see the guests, he noticed that a man who was there wasn't wearing wedding clothes.

Matthew 22:12 The king asked that man, 'Friend, how did you enter into this room without wedding clothes?' But that man didn't say anything <<because he didn't have a good answer>>.

Matthew 22:13 Then the king said to the servants who worked at the feast, 'Tie this man's hands and his feet. And take this man away from here. Take this man into the darkness where people will weep and they'll gnash their teeth.'

Matthew 22:14 <<Then>> Jesus <<said>>, "For many people are called. But few people are chosen."

Title: The Pharisees ask Jesus about taxes.

Matthew 22:15 Then those Pharisees left and planned to trick Jesus so that he would say something that will cause him to have trouble.

Matthew 22:16 Those Pharisees sent their disciples and people who supported <<King>> Herod to Jesus. Those people said <<to Jesus>>, "Teacher, we know that you're honest. And you truly teach <<the people>> about the things that God wants them to do. And you don't worry about other people or the things that they think about you. For you treat all people fairly.

Matthew 22:17 So tell your opinion to us about the following question. Is it right that we pay taxes to Caesar? Or is it wrong that we pay taxes to Caesar?"

Matthew 22:18 But Jesus understood those people's evil plans. <<Actually those people didn't want to know the thing that God wanted them to do.>> So Jesus asked those people, "You, hypocrites, why do you try to trick me?"

Matthew 22:19 Show me the coin that people use to pay that tax." Those people brought a Roman silver coin to Jesus.

Matthew 22:20 Then Jesus asked those people, "Whose picture is on this denarius? And whose name was written <<on this denarius>>?"

Matthew 22:21 Those people answered, "Caesar's picture and his name are on that coin." Then Jesus said to those people, "Give Caesar the things that belong to him and give God the things that belong to him."

Matthew 22:22 When those people heard Jesus' words, they were amazed. Then they left Jesus and walked away.

Title: Some Sadducees ask Jesus about the resurrection.

Matthew 22:23 That day some Sadducees came to Jesus to ask him a question. (They believed that people who die won't rise from the dead.)

Matthew 22:24 Those Sadducees said, "Master, Moses wrote the following law for us. If a man's brother who married a woman dies, and if he doesn't have children, that man has to marry her. Literal Alternate: And that man has to have a child for his dead brother with that wife. Dynamic Alternate: Then the first son that that man and his wife have will become like that dead brother's son. End of Alternates.

Footnote: See Deuteronomy 25:5-10.

Matthew 22:25 <<Think about the following story.>> There were seven brothers who were among us. The first brother married a woman. But before that brother had a child, he died. So that brother's brother married that woman.

Matthew 22:26 The same thing happened to the second brother, the third brother, and all of the other brothers. <<Before those brothers had a child,>> all seven of them died.

Matthew 22:27 Finally the woman died.

Matthew 22:28 At the resurrection which brother's wife will that woman be? For all seven of those brothers married that woman."

Matthew 22:29 Jesus answered, "You're making a mistake because you don't understand the scriptures or God's power.

Matthew 22:30 After the resurrection men won't marry women. Literal Alternate: And women won't be given to men by their families so that they would marry them. Dynamic Alternate: And women won't marry men. End of Alternates. Instead, those people will be like the angels who are in heaven. <<Those angels don't marry other angels.>>

Matthew 22:31 But I'll tell you about the resurrection. Did you read the following things that God said to you?

Matthew 22:32 <<When Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were dead,>> God said to Moses, 'I'm Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God.' God isn't the dead people's God. Instead, he is the living people's God."

Footnote: See Exodus 3:6.

Matthew 22:33 When the people heard those words, they were extremely amazed by the things that Jesus was teaching to them.

Title: Jesus teaches people about the most important command.

Matthew 22:34 The Pharisees heard that Jesus answered the Sadducees' question <<wisely>>. They also heard that the Sadducees stopped talking to Jesus. So they gathered.

Matthew 22:35 <<And those Pharisees went to Jesus.>> One of them tested Jesus by asking him the following question.

Matthew 22:36 That Pharisee asked, "Master, which command that is in the Law is the most important command?"

Matthew 22:37 Jesus answered, "Love the Lord, who is your God, with your whole heart, your whole soul, and your whole mind.

Footnote: See Deuteronomy 6:5.

Matthew 22:38 This command is the greatest command and is the most important command.

Matthew 22:39 And the following command also is extremely important. Love your neighbor like you love yourself.

Footnote: See Leviticus 19:18.

Matthew 22:40 Actually all of the Law of Moses and all of the words that the prophets said are about these two commands."

Title: Jesus teaches people about the Christ.

Matthew 22:41 Jesus asked the group of Pharisees,

Matthew 22:42 "Tell me about the Christ. Whose son is the Christ?" The Pharisees answered, "The Christ is <<King>> David's son."

Matthew 22:43 Literal Alternate: Jesus said to those Pharisees, "Then why did <<King>> David call the Christ 'Lord' in the Holy Spirit? Dynamic Alternate: He said to those Pharisees, "Then why did <<King>> David, who was influenced by the Holy Spirit, call the Christ 'Lord'? End of Alternates. David said,

Matthew 22:44 Literal Alternate: 'The Lord said to my lord, "Sit at my right side <<, which is a place of honor,>> until I put your enemies under your feet.'" Dynamic Alternate: 'The Lord said to my lord, "Sit at my right side <<, which is a place of honor,>> until I completely defeat your enemies.'" End of Alternates.

Footnote: See Psalms 110:1.

Matthew 22:45 <<King>> David called the Christ 'lord'. So how is the Christ able to be <<King>> David's descendant?"

Matthew 22:46 The people <<who were listening to Jesus>> weren't able to answer his question. And after that day they stopped asking him questions because they were afraid of his answers.

Title: Jesus warns people about hypocrites.

Matthew 23:1 Then Jesus said to the crowd and his disciples,

Matthew 23:2 Literal Alternate: "The Scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Dynamic Alternate: "The Scribes and the Pharisees have Moses' authority to teach people how to obey the Law.

Matthew 23:3 Therefore, you have to do all of the things that those people tell you to do. But don't act like those people act. For those people don't do the things that they teach to you.

Matthew 23:4 Literal Alternate: Those people tie heavy loads <<to other people>>. Dynamic Alternate: They teach many very difficult laws <<to other people>>. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: And they put those loads <<on other people>>. Dynamic Alternate: And they tell those other people to obey those laws. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: But they don't want to move one of their fingers to move those loads. Primary: But they don't try to obey those laws. Alternate 1: But those people don't help those other people obey those laws. End of Alternates.

Footnote: Some manuscripts of this part of the scriptures say, "Those people tie heavy and difficult loads to other people."

Matthew 23:5 Those people do all of their things so that <<other>> people would see them <<and so that they would praise those people>>. The boxes that contain God's Law and those people wear on their foreheads and on their arms are very wide. And the sets of thread that show <<people>> that those people serve God and those people wear on their clothes is very long.

Matthew 23:6 Whenever those people are at special feasts, they like sitting in the seats where the most important people sit. And they like sitting in the most important seats that are in the synagogues.

Matthew 23:7 Whenever those people are in the markets, they like it when people greet them respectfully. And they like it when other people call them 'rabbi'.

Footnote: The Hebrew word 'rabbi' means 'teacher'.

Matthew 23:8 But you should not be called 'rabbi'. For you have one teacher. And all of you're disciples <<and sisters>>.

Matthew 23:9 And don't call a person who is on earth 'religious father'. You have one Father. And that Father is in heaven.

Matthew 23:10 And you should not be called 'masters'. For you have one master, who is the Christ.

Matthew 23:11 The person who wants to be the greatest person who is among you has to be your servant.

Matthew 23:12 For God will cause the people who show other people that those people are extremely great to know that they aren't more important than other people. And he'll show people that the people who think that they aren't more important than other people are extremely great.

Title: Jesus tells the Scribes and the Pharisees seven times that they'll suffer greatly.

Matthew 23:13 Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, you'll suffer greatly! Literal Alternate: You close the door of the kingdom of heaven in front of people. Dynamic Alternate: The things that you teach <<to people>> prevent them from entering the kingdom of heaven like a person prevents another person from entering a room by closing the door. Dynamic Alternate: The things that you teach to people prevent God from ruling them like a person prevents another person from entering a room by closing the door. End of Alternates. You don't enter the kingdom of heaven and don't let the people who are trying to enter the kingdom <<of heaven>> enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 23:14

Footnote: A few manuscripts of this part of the scriptures include this verse. This verse is similar to Mark 12:40 and Luke 20:47. Mark 12:40 says, "Those Scribes take property from widows and pray long prayers <<publicly>> so that other people would see them praying. <<Therefore,>> those Scribes will be punished severely."

Matthew 23:15 Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, you'll suffer greatly! Literal Alternate: You travel to every place on the land and on the sea to cause one person to believe the things that you teach. Dynamic Alternate: You do many things to cause one person to believe the Jewish laws that you teach <<to him>>. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: But when that person starts following Jewish laws, you cause him to become a child of hell more than you're its children. Dynamic Alternate: But when that person starts following Jewish laws, you cause him to become much more evil than you.

Matthew 23:16 You, blind leaders, you'll suffer greatly! You say, 'If a person swears to God by the temple <<of Jerusalem>> that he'll do something, he doesn't need to do it. But if a person swears to God by the gold things that are in that temple that he'll do something, he has to do it.'

Matthew 23:17 You, blind foolish people, are the gold things that are in that temple greater than that temple? Isn't that temple, which causes the gold things to be sacred, greater than the gold things?

Matthew 23:18 You also say, 'If a person swears to God by the altar that he'll do something, he doesn't need to do it. But if a person swears to God by the sacrifice that is on that altar that he'll do something, he has to do it.'

Matthew 23:19 You, blind men, is the gift that is on that altar greater than it? Or is that altar, which causes that gift to be special, greater than it?

Matthew 23:20 Therefore, a person who swears to God by the altar that he'll do something swears to God there and by all of the things that are on there <<that he'll do it>>.

Matthew 23:21 And a person who swears to God by the temple that he'll do something swears to God by the temple and God, who lives there, <<that he'll do it>>.

Matthew 23:22 And a person who swears to God by heaven that he'll do something swears to God by his throne and him, who sits there, <<that he'll do it>>.

Matthew 23:23 Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, you'll suffer greatly! You regularly give one tenth of your spices, which include mint, dill, and cumin. But you stopped obeying <<God's>> more important laws. People should be just, merciful, and faithful. You obey <<God's>> less important laws. But you should also obey the more important laws.

Matthew 23:24 Literal Alternate: You, blind leaders, you take a small fly out of your drink. Dynamic Alternate: You, blind leaders, you obey the least important laws. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: But you swallow a big camel. Dynamic Alternate: But you ignore the most important laws. Dynamic Alternate: You're like a person who takes a small fly out of his drink but swallows a big camel.

Matthew 23:25 Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, you'll suffer greatly! Literal Alternate: You clean the outside of the cup and the outside of the bowl. Dynamic Alternate: You do good things in front of people so that they would think that you're righteous like after a person cleans the outside of a cup or of a bowl, it seems to be clean. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: But the cup and the bowl are full of bad things like people who want many things and are selfish are evil. Dynamic Alternate: But your hearts are like the inside of an unclean cup or of an unclean bowl because you want many things and because you're very selfish.

Matthew 23:26 Literal Alternate: Blind Pharisee, clean the inside of the cup and the inside of the bowl first. Dynamic Alternate: Blind Pharisee, stop wanting many things first. End of Alternates. And stop being selfish. Literal Alternate: Then the outside of the cup and the outside of the bowl will also be clean. Dynamic Alternate: Then you'll be able to truly do good things. Dynamic Alternate: Don't be like a person who cleans the outside of a cup or of a bowl but that doesn't clean the inside of it or of it.

Matthew 23:27 Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, you'll suffer greatly! You're like a white stone tomb. The outside of that tomb looks beautiful. But the inside of that tomb is full of a dead person's bones and dirty things.

Matthew 23:28 Similarly, you seem to be righteous. But in your hearts you're hypocrites and are completely evil.

Matthew 23:29 Scribes, Pharisees, and hypocrites, you'll suffer greatly! You build stone tombs for the prophets and put things that cause those graves to look beautiful there.

Matthew 23:30 And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have killed the prophets with our ancestors.'

Matthew 23:31 Literal Alternate: And so you testify to people that you're the descendants of the people who killed the prophets. Dynamic Alternate: And so your actions testify to people that you're like the people who killed the prophets.

Matthew 23:32 So finish fulfilling <<now>> the <<evil>> things that your ancestors started doing!

Matthew 23:33 You, snakes, group of vipers, how will you escape from God, who will punish you?

Matthew 23:34 Therefore, I'm sending prophets, wise people, and Scribes to you <<to help you follow God>>. <<But>> you'll kill some of those people. You'll crucify some of those people. You'll whip some of those people in your synagogues and travel to many towns to pursue some of those people.

Matthew 23:35 Therefore, you'll be guilty of killing all of the righteous people who were killed. You'll be guilty of killing righteous Abel. And you'll be guilty of killing Zechariah, who was Berekiah's son, between the temple of Jerusalem and the altar. And you'll be guilty of killing all of the righteous people who lived between Abel's time and the time of Zechariah.

Matthew 23:36 I'm telling the truth to you. All of these things will happen to you who live in this time.

Matthew 23:37 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you kill the prophets who are sent to you. And you stone those prophets. I often wanted to gather your children like a chicken gathers its babies under its wings. But you didn't want me to gather your children.

Matthew 23:38 Behold. Your city will become like an <<empty>> house that is abandoned.

Matthew 23:39 Literal Alternate: For I tell you that you won't see me again until you <<again>> say, 'God blesses the person who comes in the Lord's name.'" Dynamic Alternate: For I tell you that you won't see me again until you <<again>> say, 'God blesses the person who comes with his authority.'" End of Alternates.

Footnote: See Psalms 118:26 and Matthew 21:9.

Title: Jesus talks about the time when the temple will be destroyed.

Matthew 24:1 Jesus left the temple. And while Jesus was walking away, his disciples came to him. And they told him that he should look at the other beautiful buildings that were in the place where the temple was.

Matthew 24:2 Jesus asked those disciples, "Do you see all of these things? I'm telling you the truth. There won't be a stone that stays on another stone. <<When this temple is destroyed by enemies,>> every stone will be thrown to the ground."

Matthew 24:3 <<Later Jesus left the temple.>> Then he sat down on the Mount of Olives. When no other people were with Jesus and his disciples, they came to him again. They said, "Tell us about these things. When will these things happen to the temple? Which sign will show us the time when you're coming again? And which sign will show us the time when the end of all things is happening?"

Matthew 24:4 Jesus answered, "Watch out so that a person can't deceive you.

Matthew 24:5 Literal Alternate: For many people will come with the authority of my name. Dynamic Alternate: For many people will say that they came with the authority of my name. End of Alternates. And those people will say, 'I'm the Christ.' And they'll deceive many people.

Matthew 24:6 You'll hear about wars and hear reports that are about them. But don't become troubled. Those things have to happen. But the end of all things won't happen yet.

Matthew 24:7 Nations will fight each other. And kingdoms will fight each other. The land won't produce enough food in many places so many people will starve. And the ground will violently shake in different places.

Matthew 24:8 <<Those events will be signs that show you that people will suffer greatly soon.>> Those events will be like the first pains of a woman who will give birth to a baby soon.

Matthew 24:9 Then you'll be taken to the courts by your enemies so you'll be persecuted and so you'll be killed. Literal Alternate: Because of me, you'll be hated by all of the people of the nations. Dynamic Alternate: You'll be hated by all of the people of the nations because you follow me.

Matthew 24:10 Literal Alternate: In those days many people will stop having faith in me and betray each other. And they'll hate each other.

Matthew 24:11 And many false prophets will come. And those prophets will deceive many people.

Matthew 24:12 Many people will love each other and me less because more people will be evil.

Matthew 24:13 But if a person follows me until the end of his life, he'll be saved.

Matthew 24:14 And the gospel of God's kingdom will be preached to the people of the whole earth so all of the nations will hear that gospel. Then the earth's end will come.

Matthew 24:15 You'll see the terrible thing that defiles the temple and God spoke about through the prophet named Daniel. You'll see that thing standing in the holy place <<where it shouldn't be standing>>. (I pray that you who are reading this book will understand the meaning of these words.)

Footnote: See Daniel 9:27, Daniel 11:31, and Daniel 12:11.

Matthew 24:16 In those days the people who are in Judea have to run away to the mountains <<to hide>>.

Matthew 24:17 A person who is on the roof of his house must not go into his house to get something. <<Instead, he has to run away to the mountains quickly.>>

Matthew 24:18 A person who is working in a field must not return to his house to get his coat. <<Instead, he has to run away to the mountains quickly.>>

Matthew 24:19 Pregnant women and women who are nursing their babies will be extremely troubled in those days!

Matthew 24:20 Pray that you won't need to run away in winter or on the Sabbath.

Matthew 24:21 People will suffer during those days greatly. People never suffered since God created the earth more than they'll suffer during those days. And people will never suffer again more than they'll suffer during those days.

Matthew 24:22 All people will die unless the Lord causes those days to end quickly. Literal Alternate: But the Lord will cause those days for the people that he chose to be his people to end quickly. Dynamic Alternate: But he'll cause those days to end quickly to help the people that he chose to be his people.

Matthew 24:23 During those days, <<when people suffer greatly,>> a person might say to you, 'Look! Here is the Christ!' Another person might say, 'There is the Christ!' But don't believe those things.

Matthew 24:24 For false Christs and false prophets will come. And those people will do great signs and miracles that will surprise people to deceive them. They'll try to deceive the people that the Lord chose to be his people.

Matthew 24:25 Behold. Before those things happen, I'm warning you about all of those things now.

Matthew 24:26 So if people tell you, 'The Christ is in the wilderness', don't go there. Or if people tell you, 'The Christ is in the secret room', don't believe that thing.

Matthew 24:27 For when I, the Son of Man, come to the earth again, I, the Son of Man, will be seen by all people like lightning that happens during a storm is seen by all people. When that lightning comes from the eastern region, it's seen by people who are in the western region.

Matthew 24:28 The vultures gather in the place where there is a dead animal. <<Therefore, when you see a vulture, you know that there is a dead animal there. Similarly, when these things happen, people will know that I, the Son of Man, am here again.>>

Matthew 24:29 The scriptures talk about the time that is immediately after the time when people will suffer greatly. The scriptures say, 'The sun will become dark. And the moon will stop shining. The stars will fall from the sky. And the powerful things that are in the sky will be shaken.'

Footnote: See Isaiah 13:10 and Isaiah 34:4.

Matthew 24:30 Then the sign that shows people that I, the Son of Man, am coming will appear in the sky. And when all of the groups of people who are on the earth see me, the Son of Man, coming on the clouds of the sky, they'll mourn. For I, the Son of Man, will come with great power and glory.

Footnote: See Daniel 7:13-14.

Matthew 24:31 I, the Son of Man, will call my angels by blowing a trumpet loudly. And I, the Son of Man, will send those angels to gather the people that the Lord chose to be his people. Literal Alternate: Those angels will gather those people from the four winds. Dynamic Alternate: They'll gather those people from every part of the earth. End of Alternates. They'll gather those people from every place.

Matthew 24:32 Learn the following lesson by thinking about the fig tree. When the branches of the fig tree become soft and green, and when new leaves start growing, you know that summer will begin soon.

Matthew 24:33 Similarly, when you see these things happening, you'll know that the time <<when I, the Son of Man, will return>> will be soon. Literal Alternate: You'll know that I, the Son of Man, already am at the door <<because I, the Son of Man, am ready to come inside the house>>. Dynamic Alternate: I, the Son of Man, will be like a person who is at the door <<and that is ready to come inside the house>>.

Matthew 24:34 I'm telling you the truth. When these things happen, some people of this generation still will certainly be alive.

Matthew 24:35 The heavens and the earth will end. But my words will never end.

Title: Jesus tells his disciples to be ready for the Son of Man to return.

Matthew 24:36 But no person knows the day <<when I, the Son of Man, will return>> or the hour <<when I, the Son of Man, will return>>. The angels who are in heaven and I, the Son, don't know that day or that hour. Only the Father knows that day and that hour.

Footnote: Some manuscripts of this part of the scriptures don't include the words 'and the Son'.

Matthew 24:37 At the time when I, the Son of Man, will come again, people will be acting like they were acting in the days when Noah lived.

Matthew 24:38 For people were eating delicious food before the time when water completely covered the earth. And they were drinking alcohol. Literal Alternate: And they were giving their daughters to each other so that they would become their sons' wives. Dynamic Alternate: And they were marrying each other. End of Alternates. Then Noah entered the big ark <<that God told him to build>>.

Matthew 24:39 And those people didn't know that the time when water will completely cover the earth will happen until it happened and until it took them away. Similarly, they won't know that I, the Son of Man, am coming until I, the Son of Man, come.

Matthew 24:40 Two men will be working in a field. One of them will be taken. And the other man will be left.

Matthew 24:41 Two women will be crushing grain by using a stone tool. One of those women will be taken. And the other woman will be left.

Matthew 24:42 Literal Alternate: Therefore, be alert. Dynamic Alternate: Therefore, be ready. End of Alternates. For you don't know the day when the Son of Man will return.

Matthew 24:43 But understand the following lesson. If the owner of the house knows the time when the thief will come during the night, he'll be awake. He'll watch out and won't let that thief enter his house to steal things.

Matthew 24:44 You have to also be ready. For I, the Son of Man, will come at a certain time when you don't expect me, the Son of Man, to come.

Matthew 24:45 Who is a faithful and wise servant that a master might appoint? That master will appoint that servant so that whenever those servants need food, he would give it to the other servants who are in that master's house.

Matthew 24:46 When that master returns to his house, it will be good that that servant is doing the things that the master ordered him to do.

Matthew 24:47 I'm telling you the truth. Then that master will appoint that servant so that he can take care of all of the things that he owns.

Matthew 24:48 But if that servant is evil, he might think, 'My master won't come soon.'

Matthew 24:49 Then that servant might start beating those other servants. And he might start eating a lot of food. And he might start drinking a lot of alcohol with people who regularly become drunk.

Matthew 24:50 That servant's master will come on a day when he doesn't expect him to come. He'll come at an hour that he doesn't know.

Matthew 24:51 That master will punish that servant severely. That master will put that servant in the place where the hypocrites are. There the people will weep and gnash their teeth <<because they'll suffer greatly>>.

Title: Jesus tells a parable that is about ten young women who help a bride.

Matthew 25:1 At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young women who help a bride. Those young women took their lamps and went out from their houses to meet the groom.

Matthew 25:2 Five of those young women were foolish. And five of those young women were wise.

Matthew 25:3 The foolish young women brought their lamps. But those young women didn't bring extra oil.

Matthew 25:4 The wise young women brought their lamps and brought extra oil that was in jars.

Matthew 25:5 The groom didn't come for several hours. So the ten young women became tired and started sleeping.

Matthew 25:6 A person shouted at midnight, 'Behold! The groom is here! Come to meet the groom!'

Matthew 25:7 Then all of the young women woke up and prepared their lamps.

Matthew 25:8 The foolish young women said to the wise young women, 'Give us some of your oil. For our lamps will stop burning soon.'

Matthew 25:9 But the wise young women answered, 'No. There might not be enough oil for us and you. Instead, go to the people who sell oil. And buy oil for yourselves.'

Matthew 25:10 But while those five foolish young women were going to buy the oil, the groom arrived. The five wise young women who were ready went into the wedding feast. And the door of that building was closed.

Matthew 25:11 Later the five other young women came to the doors of that building. Those young women said, 'Lord, lord, open the door for us!'

Matthew 25:12 But the groom said, 'I'm telling you the truth. I don't know you.'

Matthew 25:13 Therefore, watch out. For you don't know the day <<when the Son of Man will return>> or the hour <<when he'll return>>.

Title: Jesus tells a parable that is about bags of gold.

Matthew 25:14 I'll tell you another parable <<that is about the things that will happen when I, the Son of Man, return>>. A man was planning to go to a country that was far from his country. So he called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them so that they would manage it for him.

Matthew 25:15 That man entrusted five bags of gold to one of the servants. He entrusted two bags of gold to another servant. And that man entrusted one bag of gold to another servant. That man entrusted to each servant the amount of gold that he was able to manage. Then that man left.

Footnote: One bag of gold was the amount of wages that a man received when he worked for twenty years.

Matthew 25:16 The servant who received the five bags left immediately. And he used that gold to earn five more bags of gold.

Matthew 25:17 Similarly, the servant who received two bags earned two more bags of gold.

Matthew 25:18 But the servant who received one bag left. And after that servant dug a hole in the ground, he hid the money of his master.

Matthew 25:19 After many days those servants' master returned and asked them to tell him about the amount of money that they earned for him.

Matthew 25:20 The servant who received five bags of gold brought them. He said, 'Master, I used the five bags that you entrusted to me. Look. I earned five more bags.'

Matthew 25:21 That servant's master said, 'Good and faithful servant, you did your work well! I entrusted a few things to you. And you were faithful to me. Therefore, I'll allow you to manage many things. Come. And be joyful with me, your master!'

Matthew 25:22 The servant who received two bags came to that master. That servant said, 'Master, look. I used the two bags that you entrusted to me. And I earned two more bags.'

Matthew 25:23 That servant's master said, 'Good and faithful servant, you did your work well! I entrusted a few things to you. And you were faithful to me. Therefore, I'll allow you to manage many things. Come. And be joyful with me, your master!'

Matthew 25:24 Then the servant who received one bag came to that master. That servant said, 'Master, I knew that you're a strict man. You harvest crops at places where you didn't plant seeds. You harvest crops at places where you didn't scatter seeds. <<You expect to receive things from other people's work.>>

Matthew 25:25 So I was afraid <<that if I had lost your gold, you would have punished me>>. So I went. And I hid your gold in the ground. Look. Here is the bag of gold that belongs to you.'

Matthew 25:26 That servant's master said, 'You're an evil and lazy servant. You knew that I harvested crops at places where I didn't plant seeds. And you knew that I harvested crops at places where I didn't scatter seeds.'

Matthew 25:27 Then you should have taken my money to the people who work at the bank. If you had taken my money to the bank, I would have received it and more money that the bank owes to me now.'

Matthew 25:28 <<Then that master turned to the people who were standing near him and that servant.>> He said, 'Take that bag of gold away from this servant. And give that bag to the servant who has ten bags.'

Matthew 25:29 Literal Alternate: For a person who has things will receive many more things. Dynamic Alternate: For a person who uses the things that he received will receive many more things. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: And a person who doesn't have things will lose the things that he already has. Dynamic Alternate: And a person who doesn't use the things that he received will lose the things that he already received.

Matthew 25:30 Take now from here this servant who isn't valuable. And throw this servant into the darkness where people will weep and they'll gnash their teeth.'

Title: Jesus says that the Son of Man will judge all people.

Matthew 25:31 When I, the Son of Man, come with my glory and all of the angels, I, the Son of Man, will sit on my glorious throne.

Matthew 25:32 The people who are from all of the nations will be in front of me, the Son of Man. And I, the Son of Man, will separate righteous people from evil people like a person who takes care of sheep separates sheep from goats.

Matthew 25:33 I, the Son of Man, will put the sheep on my right side and put the goats on my left side.

Matthew 25:34 Then I, the king, will say to the people who are on my right side, 'You that my Father blesses, come. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you by God since he created the earth.

Matthew 25:35 For when I was hungry, you gave food to me so that I could eat it. When I was thirsty, you gave a drink to me so that I could drink it. When I was a foreigner, you invited me to enter your houses.

Matthew 25:36 Literal Alternate: When I was naked, you put clothes on me. Dynamic Alternate: When I needed clothes, you gave clothes to me. End of Alternates. When I was sick, you took care of me. And when I was in prison, you came there to visit me.'

Matthew 25:37 Then the righteous people will say to the king, 'Lord, when did we feed you because we saw that you were hungry? When did we give drinks to you because we saw that you were thirsty?

Matthew 25:38 When did we invite you to enter our houses because we saw that you were a foreigner? Literal Alternate: When did we put clothes on you because we saw that you were naked? Dynamic Alternate: When did we give clothes to you because we saw that you needed clothes?

Matthew 25:39 When did we take care of you because we saw that you were sick? When did we visit you because we saw that you were in prison?'

Matthew 25:40 Then I, the king, will say, 'I'm telling you the truth. Whenever you did these good things for one of my least important brothers who were among you or one of my least important sisters who were among you, you did them for me.'

Matthew 25:41 Then I, the king, will say to the evil people who are on my left side, 'You that God will curse, leave me. And go into the fire that never ends and that was prepared for Satan and his servants.

Matthew 25:42 For when I was hungry, you didn't give food to me so that I could eat it. When I was thirsty, you didn't give drinks to me so that I could drink them.

Matthew 25:43 When I was a foreigner, you didn't invite me to enter your houses. Literal Alternate: When I was naked, you didn't put clothes on me. Dynamic Alternate: When I needed clothes, you didn't give clothes to me. End of Alternates. When I was sick, and when I was in prison, you didn't take care of me.'

Matthew 25:44 Those people will say, 'Lord, when didn't we help you even though we saw that you were hungry, that you were thirsty, that you were a foreigner, that you needed clothes, that you were sick, or that you were in prison?'

Matthew 25:45 I, the king, will say, 'I'm telling you the truth. Whenever you didn't do these good things for one of my brothers who were among you or one of my sisters who were among you, you didn't do them for me.'

Matthew 25:46 Then those evil people will enter the place where they'll be punished forever. But the righteous people will enter the place where they'll have life that never ends."

Title: People plot to arrest Jesus.

Matthew 26:1 After Jesus finished saying all of those things, he said to his disciples,

Matthew 26:2 "You know that there are two days until <<the feast named>> Passover. At that time my enemies will take me, the Son of Man, to crucify me, the Son of Man."

Matthew 26:3 Then the chief priests and the elders of the people met in the high priest's palace. That high priest was named Caiaphas.

Matthew 26:4 And those chief priests and those elders plotted to arrest Jesus secretly to kill him.

Matthew 26:5 Those chief priests and those elders said, "But let's not arrest Jesus during the feast because people might become violent to us."

Title: A woman puts oil on Jesus in Bethany.

Matthew 26:6 Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon, who previously had leprosy.

Matthew 26:7 Literal Alternate: While Jesus and his disciples were reclining at the table, a woman came to him. Dynamic Alternate: While Jesus and his disciples were eating, a woman came to him. End of Alternates. That woman was holding an alabaster jar. That jar contained very expensive perfume. And that woman poured that perfume on Jesus' head <<to honor him>>.

Matthew 26:8 When the disciples saw that woman's action, they became angry. They asked each other, "Why did this woman waste that perfume by pouring it on Jesus' head?"

Matthew 26:9 This perfume should have been sold for a lot of money. And that money should have been given to poor people."

Matthew 26:10 Jesus knew the things that those disciples were saying. So he asked those disciples, "Why are you bothering this woman? This woman did a good thing to me.

Matthew 26:11 There will always be poor people around you. But I won't always be here with you.

Footnote: See Deuteronomy 15:11.

Matthew 26:12 This woman poured this perfume on my body to prepare it so that <<after I die,>> people could bury it.

Matthew 26:13 I'm telling the truth to you. People will talk about the thing that this woman did in every place where the gospel is preached on the whole earth. So people will remember this woman."

Title: Judas decides to betray Jesus.

Matthew 26:14 Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples, went to the chief priests.

Matthew 26:15 And Judas Iscariot asked those chief priests, "If I give Jesus to you, how much money will you give to me?" So the chief priests gave thirty silver coins to Judas Iscariot.

Matthew 26:16 Then Judas Iscariot started waiting for a time so that he could betray Jesus to those priests.

Title: Jesus eats his last meal with his twelve disciples.

Matthew 26:17 On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal so that you and we could eat it?"

Footnote: A lamb was sacrificed for the Passover meal by each Jewish family. And Jewish families ate bread that didn't contain yeast.

Matthew 26:18 Jesus answered, "Go into the city named Jerusalem and go to a certain man. Tell that man, 'Our teacher says, "The time that God chose for me is almost now. I'll celebrate <<the holiday named>> Passover with my disciples at your house.'"

Matthew 26:19 So the disciples did the things that Jesus told them to do. And they prepared the Passover meal in that house.

Matthew 26:20 <<Later Jesus and his twelve disciples were in the room where they prepared the meal.>> Literal Alternate: In the evening they were reclining at the table <<to eat that Passover meal>>. Dynamic Alternate: In the evening they were eating that Passover meal.

Matthew 26:21 And while Jesus and the disciples were eating, Jesus said, "I'm telling you the truth. One of you'll betray me."

Matthew 26:22 So the disciples became very sad. And each disciple asked Jesus, "Lord, am I the disciple who will betray you?"

Matthew 26:23 Jesus said, "The disciple who dipped the bread with his hand in the bowl with me will betray me.

Matthew 26:24 I, the Son of Man, will die like the scriptures say that I, the Son of Man, will die. But the man who betrays me, the Son of Man, will suffer greatly! It's bad for that man that he was born."

Matthew 26:25 Then Judas Iscariot, who was the disciple who will betray Jesus, asked, "Rabbi, am I the disciple who will betray you?" Jesus said, "Yes. You're that disciple."

Matthew 26:26 While Jesus and those disciples were eating the meal, Jesus picked up some bread. And he thanked God for that bread. Then Jesus broke that bread and gave it to those disciples. And he said, "Take this bread and eat it. Primary: This bread is my body. Alternate 1: This bread is my body."

Matthew 26:27 Then Jesus picked up a cup <<that contained wine>>. And he thanked God for the wine that was in that cup. Then Jesus gave that cup to those disciples and said, "All of you, drink wine from this cup."

Matthew 26:28 Primary: Then Jesus said, "This wine is my blood. Alternate 1: Then Jesus said, "This wine is my blood. End of Alternates. My blood is the blood that God uses to make the covenant. It will be poured out for many people so that their sins would be forgiven.

Footnote: Some manuscripts of this part of the scriptures say, "My blood is the blood that God uses to make the new covenant."

Matthew 26:29 I'm telling you the truth. I won't drink wine again until the day when I drink it with you in God's kingdom."

Matthew 26:30 After Jesus and those disciples sang a hymn, they went to the Mount of Olives.

Title: Jesus predicts that Peter will tell people that he doesn't know him.

Matthew 26:31 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "This night because of the things that will happen to me, all of you'll abandon me. For the scriptures say, 'I'll kill the person who takes care of the sheep. And the sheep will run away.'

Footnote: See Zechariah 13:7.

Matthew 26:32 But after I rise from the dead, before you go to Galilee, I'll go there."

Matthew 26:33 But Peter said to Jesus, "Even if because of the things that will happen to you, all of the other disciples abandon you, I'll never abandon you."

Matthew 26:34 Jesus said to Peter, "I'm telling you the truth. Before a rooster crows, on this night you'll tell people three times that you don't know me."

Matthew 26:35 But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I won't tell people that I don't know you." And all of the other disciples also said the same thing <<that Peter said>>.

Title: Jesus prays in the olive grove.

Matthew 26:36 Then Jesus went to a place named Gethsemane with his disciples and said to them, "Sit down here. And I will go to a place that is near here to pray."

Matthew 26:37 Jesus walked away with Peter and Zebedee's two sons. <<Those two sons were James and John.>> And Jesus became troubled and very sad.

Matthew 26:38 Literal Alternate: Then Jesus said to those three disciples, "My soul is very sad so I'm almost dying. Dynamic Alternate: Then he said to those three disciples, "I'm very sad so I'm almost dying. End of Alternates. Stay here. And continue being awake."

Matthew 26:39 Then Jesus walked away from those disciples a little. He knelt and put his face close to the ground. Literal Alternate: He prayed, "My Father, if it's possible that I don't drink this cup of pain, take it away from me. Dynamic Alternate: He prayed, "My Father, if the events that will cause me to

suffer don't need to happen to me, prevent me from suffering. End of Alternates. But don't do the things that I want. Instead, do the things that you want.”

Matthew 26:40 Then Jesus returned to those three disciples and saw them sleeping. He asked Peter, “Weren't you able to be awake for one hour?”

Matthew 26:41 Continue being awake and pray so you won't want to sin. Literal Alternate: The spirit is willing <<to do good things>>. Dynamic Alternate: You want to do good things. End of Alternates. Literal Alternate: But the body is weak <<so it doesn't do good things>>. Dynamic Alternate: But your bodies are weak <<so you don't do good things>>.”

Matthew 26:42 Jesus left again <<to pray>>. Literal Alternate: And he prayed, “My Father, if I have to drink this cup of pain, do the things that you want to do.” Dynamic Alternate: And he prayed, “My Father, if the things that will cause me to suffer have to happen, do the things that you want to do.”

Matthew 26:43 When Jesus returned to his three disciples, they were sleeping again. For they were very sleepy.

Matthew 26:44 Then Jesus left those three disciples and walked away again to pray. When Jesus prayed, he said the same words <<that he said>> when earlier he prayed.

Matthew 26:45 Then Jesus returned to those three disciples. <<Those disciples were sleeping again.>> And Jesus asked those disciples, “Are you still sleeping? Are you still resting? Behold. The time when I, the Son of Man, am betrayed to people who do bad things, is now.

Matthew 26:46 Stand up! Let's go. Behold. The person who will betray me is coming!”

Title: Jesus is arrested.

Matthew 26:47 While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, who was one of the twelve disciples, arrived at the place where he was. A big crowd of people who were carrying swords and clubs was with Judas. Those people were sent by the chief priests and the elders of the Jewish people.

Matthew 26:48 Previously Judas, who was the man who was betraying Jesus, told those people about the thing that he'll do <<so that they would know the man that they should arrest>>. Previously Judas said, “The man that I'll kiss is the man. Arrest that man.”

Matthew 26:49 <<After Judas and those people arrived there,>> Judas went immediately to Jesus. And Judas said, “Rabbi, I greet you.” And he kissed Jesus.

Matthew 26:50 Primary: Jesus said to Judas, “Friend, do the thing you came here to do it.” Alternate 1: Jesus asked Judas, “Friend, why did you come here?” End of Alternates. Then those people went to Jesus. They grabbed Jesus quickly and arrested him.

Matthew 26:51 One man who was with Jesus there immediately pulled his sword out. And he hit the high priest's servant with that sword so it cut his ear off.

Matthew 26:52 Jesus said to that man, "Return your sword to its place. Literal Alternate: For because of a sword, all of the people who use their swords <<to kill a person>> will also die. Dynamic Alternate: For all of the people who kill people will be also killed.

Matthew 26:53 Do you think that I'm not able to ask my Father to immediately send very many angels to me?

Matthew 26:54 The scriptures say that these events have to be fulfilled. <<If my Father saves me now,>> how will these events be fulfilled?"

Matthew 26:55 At that time Jesus asked the people <<who were arresting him>>, "Am I a criminal? Then why do you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? I was with you every day when I was teaching people about God's message in the courtyard of the temple. And you didn't arrest me.

Matthew 26:56 But all of these things are happening now so that the words that the prophets wrote about me would be fulfilled." Then all of the disciples left Jesus and ran away.

Title: Jesus stands in front of the Sanhedrin court.

Matthew 26:57 The people who arrested Jesus took him to the house of Caiaphas, who was the high priest. The Scribes and the elders met there.

Matthew 26:58 And Peter followed Jesus and those other people to the courtyard of the high priest's house. But Peter didn't go near Jesus. Peter entered the courtyard and sat with the high priest's guards to see the things that will happen.

Matthew 26:59 Inside the high priest's house the chief priests and all of the leaders who were in the Sanhedrin were trying to find false things that were about Jesus to show people that he broke laws. Those people wanted Jesus to be killed by the Roman soldiers.

Matthew 26:60 But those chief priests and those leaders weren't able to find a reason that will cause Jesus to be killed by the Roman soldiers even though many people said false things that were about him. Finally two people stood up among the people of the Sanhedrin.

Matthew 26:61 And those people declared, "This man said, 'I'm able to destroy God's temple. And before three days pass, I'm able to build the temple again.'"

Matthew 26:62 Then the high priest stood up. And he asked Jesus, "Will you speak <<to defend yourself>>? What do you say about the things that these two men said about you?"

Matthew 26:63 But Jesus didn't speak. Then the high priest said to Jesus, "I command you to answer the following question for us in front of God, who is alive. Are you the Christ, who is the Son of God?"

Matthew 26:64 Jesus answered, "You said that I'm the Christ. But I say to all of you that in the future you'll see me, the Son of Man, sitting at the right side of the powerful God and coming to earth on the clouds that are in the sky."

Footnote: See Psalms 110:1 and Daniel 7:13.

Matthew 26:65 Then the high priest tore his clothes <<because he was very angry>>. And he said, "This man blasphemed! Why do we need more people to say bad things about this man <<to decide to punish him>>? You heard this man blaspheming <<by saying that he is equal to God>>."

Matthew 26:66 What do you think?" The priests answered, "This man deserves to die."

Matthew 26:67 Then some of the men who were there started spitting on Jesus' face. And some of those men beat Jesus with their fists. <<Other men covered Jesus' eyes with a cloth so that he couldn't see.>> And other men hit Jesus with their hands.

Matthew 26:68 And those priests said, "Christ, <<if you truly are a prophet,>> who hit you?"

Title: Peter says that he doesn't know Jesus.

Matthew 26:69 At that time Peter was sitting in the high priest's courtyard. A girl who was the high priest's servant came to Peter. And she said, "You also were with Jesus, who was from Galilee."

Matthew 26:70 But Peter said in front of all of the people who were there that the thing that that girl said wasn't true. Literal Alternate: He said, "I don't know about the thing that you're talking about." Dynamic Alternate: He said, "I don't know that man."

Matthew 26:71 Then Peter went to the entrance of the courtyard. Another girl who was a servant saw Peter. And she said to the people who were there, "This man was with Jesus, who was from Nazareth."

Matthew 26:72 But Peter again said that the thing that that girl said wasn't true. Peter swore to those people, "I don't know that man."

Matthew 26:73 Later the people who were standing there went to Peter. And they said to Peter, "You're certainly one of the people who were with Jesus. For you also speak like people who are from Galilee speak."

Matthew 26:74 Then Peter said that if he isn't telling the truth, God will punish him. And Peter swore, "I don't know that man." A rooster crowed immediately.

Matthew 26:75 Then Peter remembered the words that previously Jesus said to him. Jesus said, "Before a rooster crows, you'll say three times that you don't know me." Peter left that courtyard and wept bitterly.

Title: Judas Iscariot hangs himself.

Matthew 27:1 In the early morning all of the chief priests and the elders of the people plotted to cause Jesus to be killed.

Matthew 27:2 So those people's guards tied Jesus. They took Jesus away <<from the high priest's house>> and brought Jesus to the Roman governor named Pilate.

Matthew 27:3 When Judas saw that Pilate decided to punish Jesus, he was extremely sorry because he betrayed Jesus. And Judas returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders <<in the temple>>.

Matthew 27:4 Judas said <<to those chief priests and those elders>>, "I sinned. For I betrayed a man who is innocent." Those chief priests and those elders asked, "Why should we care about your actions? You're responsible for your actions."

Matthew 27:5 So Judas threw the money into the temple. Then he left there and killed himself by hanging himself on a tree.

Matthew 27:6 The chief priests picked up those coins and said, "The Law doesn't allow us to put this money into the treasury box. For this money was used so that a person would be killed."

Matthew 27:7 So those chief priests decided to use that money to buy the field of a person who makes pots with clay. They wanted that field to become a cemetery. That cemetery was for foreigners.

Matthew 27:8 Therefore, that field still is called 'the field of blood'.

Matthew 27:9 Then the things that God said through the prophet named Jeremiah were fulfilled. That prophet <<said>>, "Those people took the thirty silver coins. For Israel's people decided that that man's price would be that amount <<of money>>.

Matthew 27:10 And those people used those coins to buy the field of a person who made pots with clay. That action was the action that the Lord commanded me to tell people about."

Footnote: See Zechariah 11:12-13, Jeremiah 19:1-13, and Jeremiah 32:6-9.

Title: Jesus stands in front of Pilate.

Matthew 27:11 At that time Jesus stood in front of the governor. The governor asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "You said that."

Matthew 27:12 When the chief priests and the elders accused Jesus of sinning, he didn't speak.

Matthew 27:13 Then Pilate asked Jesus, "Do you hear the <<bad>> things that these priests and these elders are testifying about you?"

Matthew 27:14 But Jesus didn't speak. He didn't talk about the things that the chief priests and the elders said about him <<when they said that he sinned>>. So the governor was amazed.

Matthew 27:15 <<During the feast of Passover>> Pilate usually released one prisoner that the crowd chose.

Matthew 27:16 A <<Jewish>> man named Jesus-Barabbas was a famous prisoner who was put in prison.

Matthew 27:17 So after a crowd gathered <<in front of Pilate>>, he asked those people, "Do you want me to release Jesus-Barabbas or Jesus, who is called the Christ, for you?"

Matthew 27:18 For Pilate knew the reason why the chief priests and the elders gave Jesus to him. The chief priests and the elders were jealous because the Jewish people liked Jesus more than they liked them.

Matthew 27:19 While Pilate was sitting on the seat where a ruler sits when he judges people, his wife sent a message to him. She said <<in that message>>, "Don't decide to punish that man who is innocent. For this morning because of that man, I suffered in a dream greatly."

Matthew 27:20 But the chief priests and the elders persuaded that crowd to ask Pilate <<to release>> Barabbas and persuaded them to ask Pilate <<to command>> his soldiers to kill Jesus.

Matthew 27:21 The governor asked that crowd, "Which prisoner do you want me to release for you?" The crowd answered, "Barabbas."

Matthew 27:22 Pilate asked that crowd, "Then what should I do to Jesus, who is called the Christ?" The whole crowd answered, "Crucify Jesus!"

Matthew 27:23 Then Pilate asked, "Why should my soldiers crucify Jesus? Which evil thing did Jesus do <<so he should die>>?" But that crowd more loudly shouted, "Crucify Jesus!"

Matthew 27:24 Pilate saw that he wasn't succeeding. Instead, people started becoming violent. So Pilate got water and washed his hands <<with it>> in front of that crowd <<to show them that he wasn't responsible for Jesus' death>>. He said, "I'm innocent. Because of me, this man won't die. You're responsible for this man's death."

Matthew 27:25 All of the people said, "We are responsible for this man's death. And our children will be responsible for this man's death!"

Matthew 27:26 Then Pilate released Barabbas for those people. But Pilate ordered some soldiers to whip Jesus. And Pilate gave Jesus <<to the soldiers>> so that they would crucify him.

Title: Roman soldiers mock Jesus.

Matthew 27:27 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the <<Pilate's royal house named>> Praetorium. They called all of the <<other>> soldiers and told them to come there so that the whole group of them would stand around Jesus.

Matthew 27:28 Then those soldiers took off Jesus' clothes and put a scarlet robe <<that was like a king's robe>> on Jesus.

Matthew 27:29 Then those soldiers made a crown with thorny branches and put it on Jesus' head. They put a stick in Jesus' right hand <<to pretend to give a royal scepter to him>>. Then they bowed in front

of Jesus <<to pretend to honor him>>. And they mocked Jesus. They said, “King of the Jews, we greet you!”

Matthew 27:30 Those soldiers spit on Jesus. They took the stick and repeatedly hit Jesus' head with it.

Matthew 27:31 After those soldiers mocked Jesus, they took off the <<scarlet>> robe that he was wearing. And they put Jesus' clothes on him. Then they took Jesus away to crucify him.

Title: Roman soldiers crucify Jesus.

Matthew 27:32 While those soldiers and the prisoners were walking away from Pilate's royal house, they passed a man named Simon, who was from <<the city named>> Cyrene. And those soldiers forced Simon to carry Jesus' cross <<that they'll put him on>>.

Matthew 27:33 Those soldiers and those prisoners arrived at a place named Golgotha. (Golgotha means 'the place of the skull'.)

Matthew 27:34 There those soldiers offered to Jesus wine that was mixed with gall. But after Jesus tasted that wine, he refused to drink it.

Matthew 27:35 After those soldiers hung Jesus on that cross, they divided his clothes. They cast lots to choose the soldier who will get each piece of Jesus' clothes.

Matthew 27:36 Then those soldiers sat down and guarded Jesus there <<so that no person would try to save Jesus>>.

Matthew 27:37 Those soldiers put a sign above Jesus' head on the cross. And the reason why Jesus was on that cross was written on that sign. That sign said, “This man is Jesus, who is the king of the Jews.”

Matthew 27:38 Those soldiers also hung two thieves on crosses beside Jesus. One thief was on the right side of Jesus. And the other thief was on the left side of Jesus.

Matthew 27:39 The people who walked past Jesus insulted him badly. They shook their heads <<to show people that those people didn't respect Jesus>>.

Matthew 27:40 And those people said <<to Jesus>>, “You who <<said>> that you'll destroy the temple and that you'll build it in three days again, save yourself! If you <<truly>> are the Son of God, come down from that cross!”

Matthew 27:41 Similarly, the chief priests, the Scribes, and the elders were also mocking Jesus.

Matthew 27:42 Those people said <<to each other>>, “This man saved other people <<from their deaths>>. But this man isn't able to save himself! If this man is the king of Israel, let he come down from that cross now. Then we'll believe in this man.

Matthew 27:43 This man trusts in God. If this man pleases God, let God save him now. For <<earlier>> this man said, ‘I'm the Son of God.’”

Matthew 27:44 Similarly, the thieves who were put on crosses by soldiers beside Jesus also insulted him badly.

Title: Jesus dies.

Matthew 27:45 Between 12 pm and 3 pm it was dark.

Matthew 27:46 At about 3 pm Jesus loudly cried out <<to God>>, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (These words mean 'my God, my God, why did you abandon me'?)

Footnote: See Psalms 22:1.

Matthew 27:47 When some of the people who were standing there heard those words, some of them said, "This man is calling Elijah."

Matthew 27:48 One of those people ran immediately to get a sponge. He put that sponge in sour wine and put it on a stick. Then he put that sponge beside Jesus' mouth so that he could drink that sour wine.

Matthew 27:49 The other people said <<to that person>>, "Don't bother this man. Let's find out whether Elijah will come to save this man or he won't come to save this man."

Matthew 27:50 Then Jesus cried out again loudly Literal Alternate: And gave his spirit <<to God>>. Dynamic Alternate: And Jesus died.

Matthew 27:51 At that time the temple's curtain was torn into two pieces. It tore from the top to the bottom. The ground shook. And the stones broke.

Matthew 27:52 And the tombs were opened. And the bodies of many of the saints who already died rose from the dead.

Matthew 27:53 Those bodies came out from those tombs. After the time when Jesus rose from the dead, those people went into the holy city <<named Jerusalem>>. And they were seen by many people.

Matthew 27:54 When the Roman officer who was guarding Jesus and the soldiers who were with him saw the ground shaking and <<strange>> things happening, they became terrified. They said, "This man was certainly the Son of God!"

Matthew 27:55 Many women were there. Those women were watching these events from a place that was far <<from that cross>>. Earlier those women followed Jesus from Galilee to take care of him.

Matthew 27:56 Mary Magdalene, Mary, who was James and Joseph's mother, and the mother of Zebedee's sons <<named James and John Salome>> were among those women.

Title: Jesus is buried.

Matthew 27:57 In the evening a certain rich man named Joseph, who was from <<the town named>> Arimathea, came <<to the place where those things happened>>. Earlier Joseph also became Jesus' disciple.

Matthew 27:58 Joseph went to Pilate and asked him for Jesus' body. So Pilate ordered Jesus' body to be given to Joseph.

Matthew 27:59 Joseph took the body and wrapped it with clean good and light cloth.

Matthew 27:60 Then Joseph put that body in his new tomb that his servants dug in a hill earlier. <<Previously there wasn't a body in that tomb.>> Then Joseph and other men rolled a <<big>> stone in front of the entrance of that tomb. And Joseph walked away.

Matthew 27:61 Mary Magdalene and other Mary were sitting near the front of that tomb <<now because earlier they followed Joseph>>.

Title: Soldiers guard Jesus' tomb.

Matthew 27:62 The next day the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. That day was the day that was after the day that people prepared the feast <<of Passover>> on.

Matthew 27:63 Those chief priests and those Pharisees said <<to Pilate>>, "Governor, we remember the words that the man who deceived people said while he still was alive. That man said, 'I'll rise from the dead after three days.'

Matthew 27:64 So you should order some of your soldiers to guard the tomb until the third day. If the tomb isn't guarded, Jesus' disciples might come to steal <<his>> body. Then they'll tell the people that after Jesus was dead, he rose from the dead. Those actions will deceive people much more than the previous actions."

Matthew 27:65 Pilate said, "Take soldiers and cause the tomb to be guarded extremely well."

Matthew 27:66 So those people went to that tomb and put a mark on the stone that was <<at the entrance of there>> so that no person would enter it. And they left that group of soldiers at that tomb so that they would guard it.

Title: Jesus rises from the dead.

Matthew 28:1 After the Sabbath when the sun started rising on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and another Mary went to the tomb <<where Jesus' body was>> to look there.

Matthew 28:2 Suddenly the ground violently shook. For the Lord's angel came from heaven to the entrance of that tomb. He moved the stone and sat on it.

Matthew 28:3 That angel looked like lightning. Literal Alternate: And that angel's clothes were white like snow is white. Dynamic Alternate: And that angel's clothes were bright and extremely white.

Matthew 28:4 The guards <<who were in front of the tomb>> became very afraid of that angel. So they shook and fell to the ground like dead men fall down.

Matthew 28:5 That angel said to the women <<who came to the tomb>>, "Don't be afraid. For I know that you're searching for Jesus, who died on a cross.

Matthew 28:6 Jesus isn't here. He rose from the dead like he said that <<after people crucify him,>> he'll rise from the dead previously. Come and see the place where Jesus' body was.

Matthew 28:7 Then go quickly and tell Jesus' disciples, 'Jesus rose from the dead. And Jesus is going to Galilee in front of you. You'll see Jesus there.' You know now Jesus' message <<that is for his disciples>>."

Matthew 28:8 Then those women left that tomb quickly. Those women were afraid <<of that angel>>. But those women rejoiced and ran to tell Jesus' message to his disciples.

Matthew 28:9 Suddenly Jesus met those women. He said, "I greet you." Those women went to Jesus and grabbed his feet. Those women worshiped Jesus.

Matthew 28:10 Then Jesus said to those women, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee. My brothers and sisters will see me there."

Title: The guards tell the elders and the chief priests that Jesus' tomb is empty.

Matthew 28:11 While those women were going to the disciples, some of the soldiers who were guarding Jesus' tomb went into the city <<named Jerusalem>>. And those guards told the chief priests about all of the things that happened.

Matthew 28:12 Then those chief priests met with the elders. And those chief priests and those elders planned the thing that they should do. Those elders and those chief priests gave a big amount of money to those soldiers.

Matthew 28:13 And those elders and those chief priests told those soldiers, "You have to say, 'In the night Jesus' disciples came to the tomb. And while we were sleeping, Jesus' disciples stole his body.'

Matthew 28:14 If the Roman governor hears this report, we'll talk to him so that you won't be punished."

Matthew 28:15 So those soldiers took that money <<that those chief priests and those elders gave to them>>. And they told people the things that those elders and those chief priests instructed them to say. Since that time this false story <<that the soldiers told>> was told by many Jews among the Jews.

Title: Jesus gives important commands to his disciples.

Matthew 28:16 Then the 11 disciples went to Galilee to the mountain where Jesus told them to go.

Matthew 28:17 When the disciples saw Jesus, they worshiped him. But some of them doubted <<that the man that they saw was Jesus>>.

Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to those disciples and said, "All authority was given to me. So I rule all of the angels of heaven, all of the demons, and all of the people of the earth.

Matthew 28:19 Therefore, go and cause people to become my disciples in all nations. Literal Alternate: Baptize those people in water and in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Dynamic Alternate: Baptize those people in water by using the authority of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:20 And teach those people that they have to obey all of the commands that I gave to you. And I always am certainly with you. I'll be with you until the end of time."