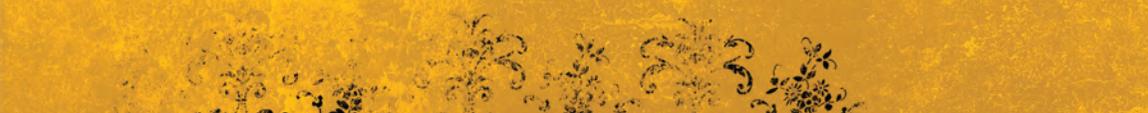




pierced

the
new testament



pierced

the
new testament



Pierced: The New Testament

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Pierced: The New Testament

A New Testament Devotional Experience, by Youth and for Youth

The Bible is the book of books—its pages have shaped our worldwide culture far more than any other single work of literature, and it's the bestselling book of all time.

But it's also the most-owned, least-read book in history...

For so many, for so long, the story of God recorded in its pages has been the doorway into a new life full of meaning and adventure and freedom. But for many others, the Bible is a daunting book—its size and language can feel intimidating, and its ancient message can seem disconnected from everyday life.

It doesn't have to be that way...

In *Pierced: The New Testament*, you'll discover a story-based version of the New Testament that reads more like a regular book. These collected, individual books make up one ongoing narrative—the epic adventure of Jesus and his early disciples. And here they're organized in a more natural, easier-to-understand order, using the “Books of the Bible” strategy developed by Biblica, the creators of the NIV translation of the Bible. It has a simple, conversational feel. And that's because...

- **We took out all the chapter and verse numbers that were added after these books were written.** They're helpful for referencing parts of the New Testament, but not for reading these stories as they were originally intended. Some of these books are eyewitness accounts of the life of Jesus and his followers, some are letters written by the early apostles to people in the churches they planted or to the leaders they were mentoring, some are “wisdom books,” and some have a good deal of poetry in them. Without the added “breaks” of chapters and verses, the flow of the story reads the way the early followers of Jesus would've experienced it (for more on this, read “A Word About *The Books of the Bible*,” on page 474).

- **We recruited teenage artists from around the world to capture the message of every New Testament writer with original artwork.** Each piece serves as an “onramp” into each book. We asked students to send us examples of their art, then we picked 10 artists from dozens of submissions. We asked them to read their assigned books and then create an original work of art that captured the “essence” of that book. You can study each piece, and the “anchor verse” from that book that you’ll see at the bottom, as an artistic translation of the writer’s message.
- **We asked teenagers to help us transform the words of the New Testament into a conversation with friends.** They sent us their own marked-up Bibles, then we chose 10 of them from across the country and transferred their actual margin scribbles, journal entries, highlighting, underlining, and even doodles into the pages of *Pierced*. You get the questions, insights, prayers, and reactions that real teenagers have written as they interact with the message of the New Testament. As you read, you’re drawn into a wider conversation with friends whose comments and observations will spark your own.
- **We created space throughout so you can write your own scribbles and doodles, joining the conversation with your own perspective.** As you read *Pierced*, you’ll be invited to add your voice to the story of Jesus and his followers, throughout the ages.

We want *Pierced* to be a devotional Bible-reading experience that directly connects to your everyday realities. The story of Jesus is piercing, and it will pierce your heart as you dive into these pages. Follow his narrative... all the way to his heart.

—Rick Lawrence, General Editor



A GUIDE TO

pierced
the new testament

A Narrative Approach to the Bible

The Books of the Bible edition expresses the ancient concept of the fourfold gospel in a fresh way. Here each gospel is placed at the beginning of a group of closely related books. In this way the groups of books can be seen as giving four witnesses to the one gospel of Jesus the Messiah.



This cross-shaped presentation of the New Testament highlights the uniqueness of each voice while preserving the unity of the collection. For more on this approach, see “A Word About *The Books of the Bible*” (p. 474).

A portion of the purchase price of your NIV® Bible is provided to Biblica so together we support the mission of Transforming lives through God's Word.

Biblica provides God's Word to people through translation, publishing and Bible engagement in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, and North America. Through its worldwide reach, Biblica engages people with God's Word so that their lives are transformed through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

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Meet Our Student Illustrators

Our design team recruited 10 teenage artists from around the world to add their own unique artistic “translations” of each book of the New Testament.

Ariel Adels—Ariel is a freshman at Rowan College in Sewell, New Jersey. She has a passion for digital painting, fine arts, drawing, and photography. In her free time, she loves to play ukulele, guitar, write short stories, and sing. Her art captures the beauty of the world around her, and raises awareness for those who are dealing with anxiety and depression. After earning a degree in graphic design, she'll enroll in art school. She's grateful to God that her work has been featured at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and in several magazines.

Mitchell Bowen—Mitchell's main hobby is art, but he also enjoys playing soccer for his school and a local club team, and he skis in the winter. He's a sophomore at a Christian school in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, where he's part of a special graphic design program. Mitchell created three illustrations for this project—introductions to Luke, Galatians, and 1 Peter. In them, he fleshes out Jesus' fierce determination to bring rescue to lost people (Luke), the freedom from the law Jesus brings us (Galatians), and the role of suffering in the hands of the Great Sculptor (1 Peter).

Lesley Garcia—Lesley lives near Chicago, Illinois, where she's a senior in high school. Art has been a focus in her life since she was a child, and she's grateful to God for giving her a talent to express herself artistically. She loves to explore how people process the message of the Bible in their lives, then envision an artistic representation of that message. She says art has helped her to express and imagine spiritual truths more freely than words allow. She will transition soon to college, where she'll major in graphic design and minor in animation.

Samantha Hang—Samantha lives in Sterling Heights, Michigan, and has been an artist ever since she could hold a pencil. Growing up, she was heavily influenced by the Japanese anime/manga style of art. Over time, she also discovered a love for realism, which she then incorporated into her existing style. Though her art is still infused with an obvious nod to anime/manga, she's still a growing artist, always looking to mature in her approach.

Eleanor Hyde—Eleanor lives in Hartlepool, England, and is an art lover, daughter of Christ, college student, and founder of distinctivemode.com. She's passionate about creativity, Christ, and connecting. She loves bringing voice to others through her painting, photography, and music. She's been a blogger for three years, and enjoys watching her influence grow. Her goal is to reach hearts with her creative work, and eventually grow it into an art/ministry career.



Michael F. Martin—Michael is a high school senior in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he lives with his parents, five sisters, two dogs, and cat. He's on the cross country and tennis teams at school, and has been active in its performing arts program for several years. For as long as he can remember, he's been producing artwork. He plans to pursue a double major in English and communications in college, and is grateful for this opportunity to use his talents to honor God.

Allison McIntyre—Allison lives in Shinnston, West Virginia, where she's a senior in high school. Her ambition is to find a career working in the arts. She's a 2015 graduate of the Governor's School for the Arts, and has participated in numerous art competitions. In 2014, her work entitled "Life Will Stretch You" won the Congressional Art Competition—her piece was displayed in Washington, D.C., for a year. Allison has participated in live worship-painting, and created many paintings for her church. She worked on two illustrations for *Pierced*, celebrating Paul's challenge to "not be conformed to the world" (Romans), and contrasting the withering beauty of earthly riches with the blossoming beauty of humility (James). Her website is: allisonmcintyre.weebly.com.

Emily Parker—Emily lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she was homeschooled through high school. She's now a student at North Carolina State University, where she's studying animation and interactive media. She's an illustrator with a passion for storytelling, and believes that art has a great potential for encouragement and sharing the gospel. You can see more of her art on Instagram: [@its_emily_parker](https://www.instagram.com/its_emily_parker).

Teddy Perelli—Teddy is a sophomore at a high school in Charlotte, North Carolina. He created three pieces for this project—introductions to 2 Timothy, 1 John, and Revelation. In them, he targets Paul's warning about "godless chatter" (2 Timothy), the impermanence of "the desires of the world" (1 John), and the hopeful path to intimacy with God (Revelation). Teddy says he was honored to participate in this project, and feels grateful he can use his artistic skills to help readers engage in God's Word.

Lane Sanders—Lane is a student at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, Colorado. He developed his love for art as a child, and then worked hard to improve his technique in high school. His style is detailed and precise—he enjoys creating portraits and landscapes. His favorite medium is graphite, but he also works with colored pencils, pens, and acrylics.



Meet Our Student Writers

Our editorial team recruited 10 teenagers from all over the country to add their raw, authentic voices to the pages of this New Testament narrative. We asked them to send us their own marked-up Bibles, then copied all of their margin notes, highlighting, and underlining and transferred them verbatim into the pages of Pierced. Each of our contributors is now represented by a distinct typestyle—for example, this, and this. As you encounter their scribbles and questions and prayers, you're invited into a conversation with friends about the most important truths that guide our lives.

Elijah Bachali—Eli committed his life to Christ when he was six years old, and has deeply grown to love the Lord since then. He just finished his first year at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky, working toward a degree in Bible Theology. He anticipates a career in Christian ministry. The perfect day for Eli would be spent in a hammock in the mountains, reading a book, and listening to the Gray Havens.

Alexis DeLong—Alexis is 16 years old and lives in southeastern Indiana. She enjoys singing, swimming, and reading. She's very involved in her church's youth ministry, leading worship with the praise team and participating in the Student Leaders program. She's captain of her high school swimming team and is active in her school choir. In her free time, Alexis enjoys being with her friends and family.

Destiny Denbo—Destiny is a high school senior in Akron, Colorado. She's a member of the pom pon, volleyball, and basketball teams at school, where she's also vice president of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America club. She loves singing in her church's choir and serving on the worship team—and she's learning to play piano while she develops her songwriting talent. She's also deeply involved in her church's youth group and in her local Young Life club. In the future, she plans to study at a Christian college.

Mariah Hardeman—Mariah is a 16-year-old student who lives in western Kentucky. She's a Christian who has a passion for missions and doing whatever she can to serve others. She's very excited that God opened this door for her, and prays that *Pierced* will help her grow closer to God and encourage others in their walk with Christ.

Nole Johnson—Nole is a high school senior in Loveland, Colorado. He was born in Southern California, where he lived for seven years before moving to the Rocky Mountain west. He loves to study the Word of God and explore theological and philosophical topics. His goal is to become a pastor.

Claire Jones—Claire is a high school senior in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. She's actively involved in theater and choir, as well as her youth group. In her free time, Claire loves to write and create, and hopes that she can someday use these talents to further the Kingdom of God. In the future, she would love to travel so that she may learn, understand, and embrace different cultures.

Olivia Lane—Olivia Lane is a sophomore at Centre College in Kentucky. She was introduced to a relationship with Jesus, and learned how to grow deep in that relationship, when she started attending the youth group at her church. There, her youth pastor taught her to see herself as a child of God, helping her embrace herself as a person of worth. Her relationship with Jesus has changed her life, and the life of her whole family.

Jada Reese—Jada is a 13-year-old who lives in La Quinta, California. She loves to dance, and performs for her school dance team. She served as activities director for her middle school's student government class, and in her spare time loves hanging out with her friends, going to small group at church, and taking pictures. She loves fashion, and is involved in photography, cheerleading, and volleyball. When she gets older she wants to be a dancer for the American Ballet Theatre.

Trent Russell—Trent is a student at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas. In his free time he loves to rock-climb, master his hammocking skills in the mountains, and go thrift-shopping. He'll eat anything with BBQ sauce on it, and he craves chicken wings daily. Fun fact: Trent is easily frightened and sometimes spooked by his own shadow. Bad puns are his weakness.

Electa Sutton—Electa is a high school senior in Centennial, Colorado. She has a passion for her relationship with Christ and for his work. She dearly loves volunteering with middle schoolers at her church, spending time with her family, and spoiling her dog. God is constantly teaching her what it means to be filled to overflowing by him, through him, and with his goodness. She signs all her emails with John 15:1, 5: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener... you are the branches."

A Note From Our *Pierced* Team

Thanks for opening yourself up to Jesus. *Pierced* will help you experience Jesus in a new and relevant way. It's a more intimate, intriguing, and relational way to encounter God's Word. We know you have a deep desire for a more clear understanding of what Jesus really said and did, and how you can experience him more in your everyday life.

Connecting people to Jesus in deeper ways is the foundation of everything we do here at Group. In fact, we've been creating resources designed to fuel greater intimacy with Jesus for more than 40 years. Our goal is to help you discover that it's possible to walk with Jesus every moment of every day, and to invite your friends to experience Jesus themselves.

Check out group.com/youth-ministry for hundreds of other resources that will nourish your soul and sustain your orbit around the true center of the universe... Jesus.

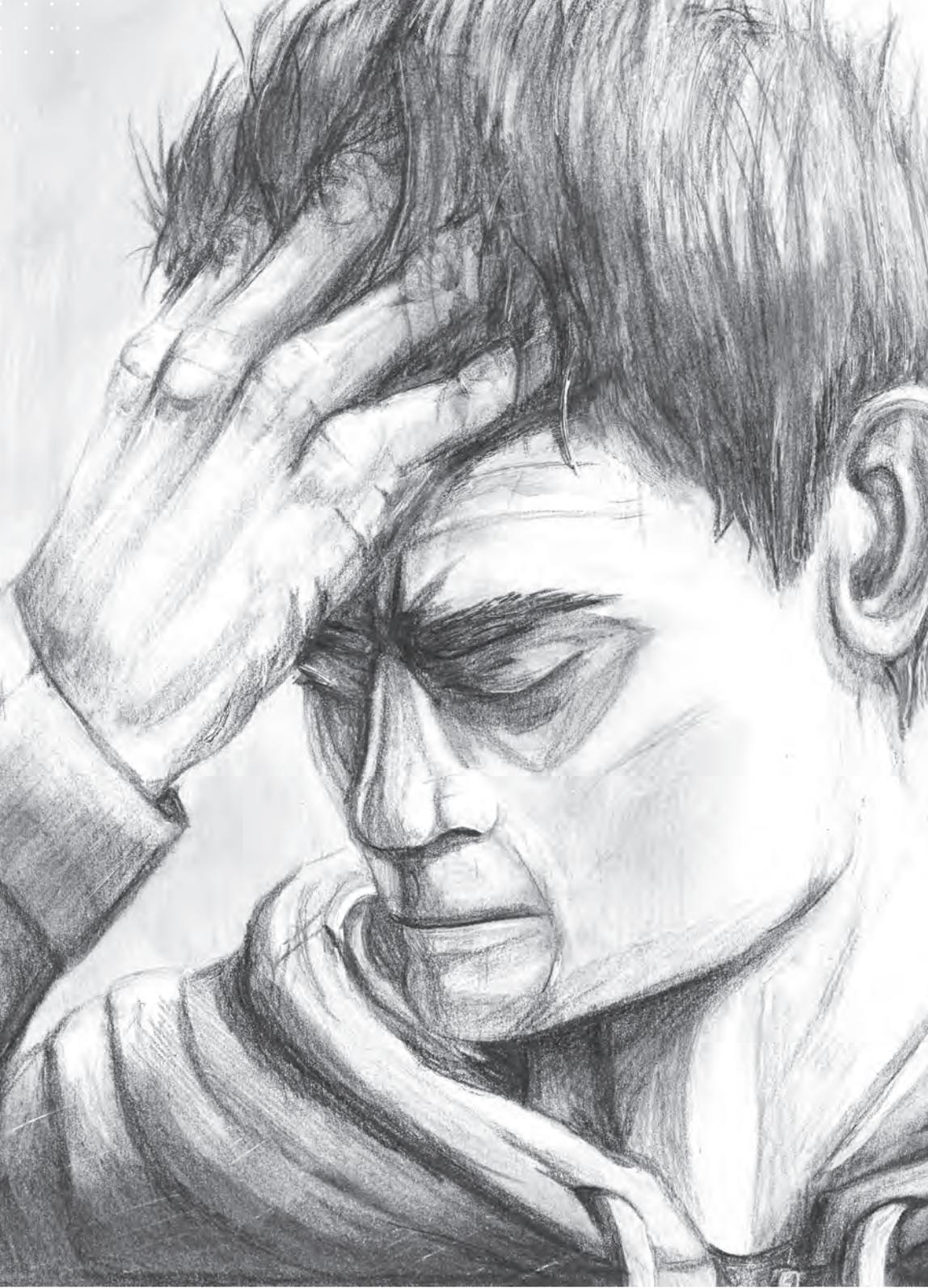
P.S. Tell your youth leader, parents, and friends about it. They'll be glad to go on your Jesus-centered journey with you.





pierced

the new testament



LUKE

But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. Luke 15:32



LUKE

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshippers were praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous — to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this

his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.” *God's Word NEVER fails!*

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me —

LUKE

holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

*this is called the
magnificat*

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost
thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

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

He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful

to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

*this story is
kinda funny*

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
 in the house of his servant David
 (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
 salvation from our enemies
 and from the hand of all who hate us —
 to show mercy to our ancestors
 and to remember his holy covenant,
 the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
 to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
 and to enable us to serve him without fear
 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most
 High;
 for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for
 him,
 to give his people the knowledge of salvation
 through the forgiveness of their sins,
 because of the tender mercy of our God,
 by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
 to shine on those living in darkness
 and in the shadow of death,
 to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel. *Mountain man...*

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her first-

LUKE

born, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

*A really, really tender story -
first to really touch & hold
Messiah. His only reward - Jesus.*

The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”

“Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

*to his parents:
must have
sounded like??*

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them.

LUKE

But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar — when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene — during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,

make straight paths for him.

What does it mean to 'make straight paths' for Him?

Every valley shall be filled in,

every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,

the rough ways smooth.

And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

“Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely — be content with your pay.”

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all,

“I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother’s wife, and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph,

the son of Heli, the son of Matthat,
 the son of Levi, the son of Melki,
 the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph,
 the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos,
 the son of Nahum, the son of Esli,
 the son of Naggai, the son of Maath,
 the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein,
 the son of Josek, the son of Joda,
 the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa,
 the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel,
 the son of Neri, the son of Melki,
 the son of Addi, the son of Cosam,
 the son of Elmadam, the son of Er,
 the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer,
 the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat,
 the son of Levi, the son of Simeon,
 the son of Judah, the son of Joseph,
 the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim,
 the son of Melea, the son of Menna,

JESUS:
 a real person
 w/ a real history

LUKE

the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan,
the son of David, the son of Jesse,
the son of Obed, the son of Boaz,
the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon,
the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram,
the son of Hezron, the son of Perez,
the son of Judah, the son of Jacob,
the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham,
the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,
the son of Serug, the son of Reu,
the son of Peleg, the son of Eber,
the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan,
the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem,
the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,
the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch,
the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel,
the son of Kenan, the son of Enosh,
the son of Seth, the son of Adam,
the son of God.

Spirit actually
LEADS HIM into
wilderness 2b.
tempted. Must. face
this to go on...

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you carefully;
they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”
When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

This is it. His mission impossible.

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”

“Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. And there

LUKE

were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed — only Naaman the Syrian.”

All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority.

*Demon thinks
He's there to
destroy but no*

In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, “Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God!”

“Be quiet!” Jesus said sternly. “Come out of him!” Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!” And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.

Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

*!!!! demons
have no doubt*

At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. But he said, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.” And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” And immediately the leprosy left him.

Then Jesus ordered him, “Don’t tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.”

Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are

have faith

Many times throughout Scripture: “don’t tell anyone.”

LUKE

Easier to forgive
sins, or heal body?
All the same to
Jesus.

forgiven, or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."

Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

He told them this parable: "No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, 'The old is better.'"

One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels. Some of the Pharisees asked, "Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

Jesus answered them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." Then Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled. The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. But Jesus

knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Get up and stand in front of everyone.” So he got up and stood there.

Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?”

He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was completely restored. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

Looking at his disciples, he said:



“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.
Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.
Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.
Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

“Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

LUKE

Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

He also told them this parable: “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? The student is not above the teacher, but every-one who is fully trained will be like their teacher.

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn-bushes, or grapes from briars. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

God loves ALL! We're called to be like Him.

Help me to realize that I have problems & heart issues that need to be looked at before I can help someone else.

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”

When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. There a centurion’s servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, “This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.” So Jesus went with them.

He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: “Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.” Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out — the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”

Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

God is here to help his people! Always, no matter what!

LUKE

John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'"

Points to
prophecies
as proof

At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

(All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John. But the Pharisees and the experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.)

Jesus went on to say, "To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other:

"We played the pipe for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge,
and you did not cry."

For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking,

and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by all her children."

When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is — that she is a sinner."

Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

"Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven — as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

GREAT LOVE
is what it's all
about...

Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

LUKE

While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”

When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

His disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

What is the kingdom like?
What is the king like?

“though seeing, they may not see;
though hearing, they may not understand.”

“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

“No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light. For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they think they have will be taken from them.”

Now Jesus’ mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.”

He replied, “My mother and brothers are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice.”

One day Jesus said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side of the lake.” So they got into a boat and set out. As they sailed, he fell

But he was pierced for
our transgressions, he
was crushed for our
iniquities; the punishment
that brought us peace
was on him, and by his
wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5