

Zacharias & Elizabeth were a father & mother who had never had children.

Zacharias was a priest. He often prayed for a baby.

One day, it was his turn to work in the temple.

He was happy that he finally got a turn.

His job was to go near the center of the temple, and offer a sacrifice, and burn it.

As he began to do this, an angel came to him, and stood by the altar in front of him.

Angels hadn't appeared in the temple for a long time, so Zacharias knew something important was about to happen.

He was scared.

The angel told him that his wife, Elizabeth, would have a baby, after all.

The angel said it would be a baby boy, and that he would have to be named John.

No other name would do.

He also said to make sure the boy drank no wine, and he would grow up to be a great man.

Zacharias wondered if this could all be true.

He asked the angel to prove it.

The angel told Zacharias that he should have believed him, because he was the angel Gabriel.

Then, the angel Gabriel made Zacharias so that he could not talk, because he had not believed.

The angel Gabriel said he would be able to talk again only after the baby was born, & was named.

Then, the angel left.

(2)

The people outside the temple waited & waited to see  
the smoke from the burning of the sacrifice.

No smoke came.

After a while, Zacharias came out of the temple,  
and the people asked him why he had not  
come sooner.

Zacharias could not tell them by talking,  
so he made signs with his hands,  
& wrote notes, & told them  
about the angel, & what he had said.

Then, they all went home, some of them wondering.  
Zacharias happily told his wife, Elizabeth, by  
writing her notes, too.

Pretty soon, Elizabeth could feel the baby inside her,  
growing.

About this time, the same angel, Gabriel, went to  
a young lady who soon would get  
married to a young man named Joseph.

She was Elizabeth's cousin.

Her name was Mary.

The angel Gabriel told Mary that it was going to be  
her privilege to be the earthly mother of Jesus Christ.

He told her how special it would be to her  
to be His mother.

He told her that her cousin, Elizabeth, was to soon  
have a baby.

That baby would grow up,  
and would baptize people,  
helping them to be ready to learn  
from Jesus Christ.

Then the angel went away.

(3)

So the next day, Mary started to walk to the land of Judea, where her cousin lived. After 3 or 4 days of walking, she got there.

When she first spoke to Elisabeth, the baby in Elisabeth's womb kicked for joy, because he heard Mary's voice, too. He knew that she would be the earthly mother of Jesus Christ.

Elisabeth was just as happy, too, to have Mary visit. Mary stayed, and visited, for 3 months.

At that time, Elisabeth gave birth to her baby boy.

A week later, they held a party, where they would name him. All their friends that were there, wanted the baby named Zacharias, like his father, or Abijah, like one of his great grandfathers.

But Zacharias was upset with this.

He remembered that the angel had said the baby should be called, John.

He wrote notes & showed them to everyone.

They read, "His name has to be John." Elisabeth, his wife, agreed.

So they named the baby, John.

Just as soon as that happened, Zacharias said something.

He could talk now, just like the angel had promised.

He told everybody all over again, about the angel, and how good Heavenly Father was to send someone to baptize people, so they would be ready to learn from Jesus Christ.

(A)

Mary went back home.

When she told her boy-friend, Joseph, that she was to have a baby, he was surprised. People weren't supposed to have babies before they were married.

But one night an angel came to Joseph in a dream, and told him that the Baby was a special one, with Heavenly Father as His Father.

So Joseph was no longer worried. He married Mary, just as they had planned.

That spring, the Roman governors called upon everyone to pay a Tax.

Joseph & Mary would have to travel a long ways to pay theirs. They lived in Nazareth, & had to go to Judea. They took a donkey for Mary to ride on

part of the time. It took them 4 or 5 days to get to the city of Bethlehem, in Judea

A lot of people had come to that same small town to pay their Taxes, too.

Joseph & Mary had no friends to stay with there, so they went to places like motels or hotels to get a place to sleep at night

But at each place, the rooms & beds were already taken.

The only other place they could sleep would be in a stable at one of the hotels.

When it got late in the evening,

Joseph & Mary asked to stay in the stable at one of the hotels.

They wouldn't have beds, or a door to shut, but they would be warm, & the hay would be soft to lay on.

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The next day, Joseph & Mary paid their Tax  
to the Roman governor in the city.

Mary thought that the Baby would be born soon.

One night, Mary gave birth to the Baby there in the stable.  
~~Mary was happy; so was Joseph.~~  
The Baby was a happy baby.  
They wrapped Him in blankets, & made a little bed  
for him in the hay.

At the same time, angels visited some shepherds  
who were tending sheep in the hills nearby.

One angel said,

"Be happy tonight; because now Jesus Christ  
is born."

"You can find him in a stable, in a bed of hay."

Then more angels came, & they all sang:

"Glory to God, and let there be peace on earth."

The shepherds were indeed happy.

They left their sheep, & went to the town,  
and found the stable where the Baby Jesus was.

They went in and looked for a while at the Baby Jesus.

They stood very still, trying to be reverent to Him.

Some of them knelt down,

and bowed their heads to Him

Then they went back to their sheep in the hills.

They told everyone they saw how happy  
they were that Jesus Christ was born.

They also sang songs as they walked along.

Mary, back at the stable with Jesus,  
wondered how the shepherds could tell so easily  
that this Baby was Jesus Christ, and why  
they stood so still when looking at Him.

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After the Baby Jesus was 40 days old,  
Mary & Joseph took him to the temple  
when they offered a sacrifice.

While in the temple, a prophet named Simeon came up to them  
and asked to see the Baby.

He knew at once that it was Jesus Christ,  
and he was very happy.

Heavenly Father had promised him he would see the Baby Jesus  
before he died.

He was very old.

He asked to hold the Baby.

He held the Baby high, and said,

"Thank you, Heavenly Father, for letting me see the Baby Jesus

Now I won't worry if I die."

Then the prophet Simeon told Mary & Joseph  
that the Baby Jesus had a great mission to do later,  
and that Mary would feel hurt before it ended.

After the prophet Simeon left,

a lady prophet named Anna caught sight of the Baby.  
She stopped people who passed by,  
and pointed towards the Baby Jesus, saying:  
"That Baby is the Son of God."

At about this time, a new star appeared.

It was brighter than any other star.

Some wise men came to Jerusalem about this time, from far away lands, seeking the Baby Jesus. They had followed the new, bright star in the east. But Joseph & Mary still stayed in Bethlehem, not in Jerusalem, and the Baby Jesus with them. So the wise men had to ask people where to go, since they did not know He was nearby, in Bethlehem. They decided to ask the king in Jerusalem, Herod. Herod did not know anything about the Baby Jesus. He felt angry when the wise men said that Jesus was to be the King of the Jews. Herod wanted to stay king over the Jews.

He asked the priests & scribes of the Jews, and ordered them to tell him where Jesus was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem." "The prophets in our Bible say he will be King of the Jews."

This only made Herod angrier. He sent the priests & scribes away.

He told the wise men to try finding the Baby Jesus. He asked them to come back & tell him where He was, so he could go see Him, too. Really, Herod wanted to hurt the Baby Jesus, instead

The wise men went to Bethlehem, and asked there.

Soon they found Joseph & Mary, & the Baby Jesus

They all knelt down in front of the Baby Jesus. They were reverent to him. They gave him gifts that they brought.

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The wise men stayed a short time longer.

When they were sleeping at night,

They dreamed that Heavenly Father sent an angel who told them not to tell Herod where the Baby Jesus was.

So when they left the next morning,

they didn't go back to see Herod,

but started walking & riding

back to their countries.

One night after the wise men had gone,

an angel came to Joseph, & told him:

"Take your wife, Mary, & the Baby Jesus, and go live in Egypt for a while, because Herod is about to find the Baby Jesus, to hurt Him."

So Joseph, Mary, & the Baby Jesus left Bethlehem secretly, and went to Egypt to live.

Soon after they had gone, Herod's soldiers marched to Bethlehem.

They had no idea about which house the

Baby Jesus was supposed to be in,

so they asked at every house, if there was a baby boy

And the mothers cried.

If there was, they hurt him until he died.

Then they went to the next house.

They asked if there were any baby boys there.

If there were, they hurt them too, so that they died.

And the mothers cried.

This way, Herod hoped to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem, so that he could be sure that there would be no Baby Jesus to become the King of the Jews in his place.

But, thanks to Heavenly Father's sending an angel to warn Joseph the Baby Jesus was safe in Egypt.

Very soon, though, Herod died, and was dead, too.

Heavenly Father sent an angel to Joseph in Egypt, who told him

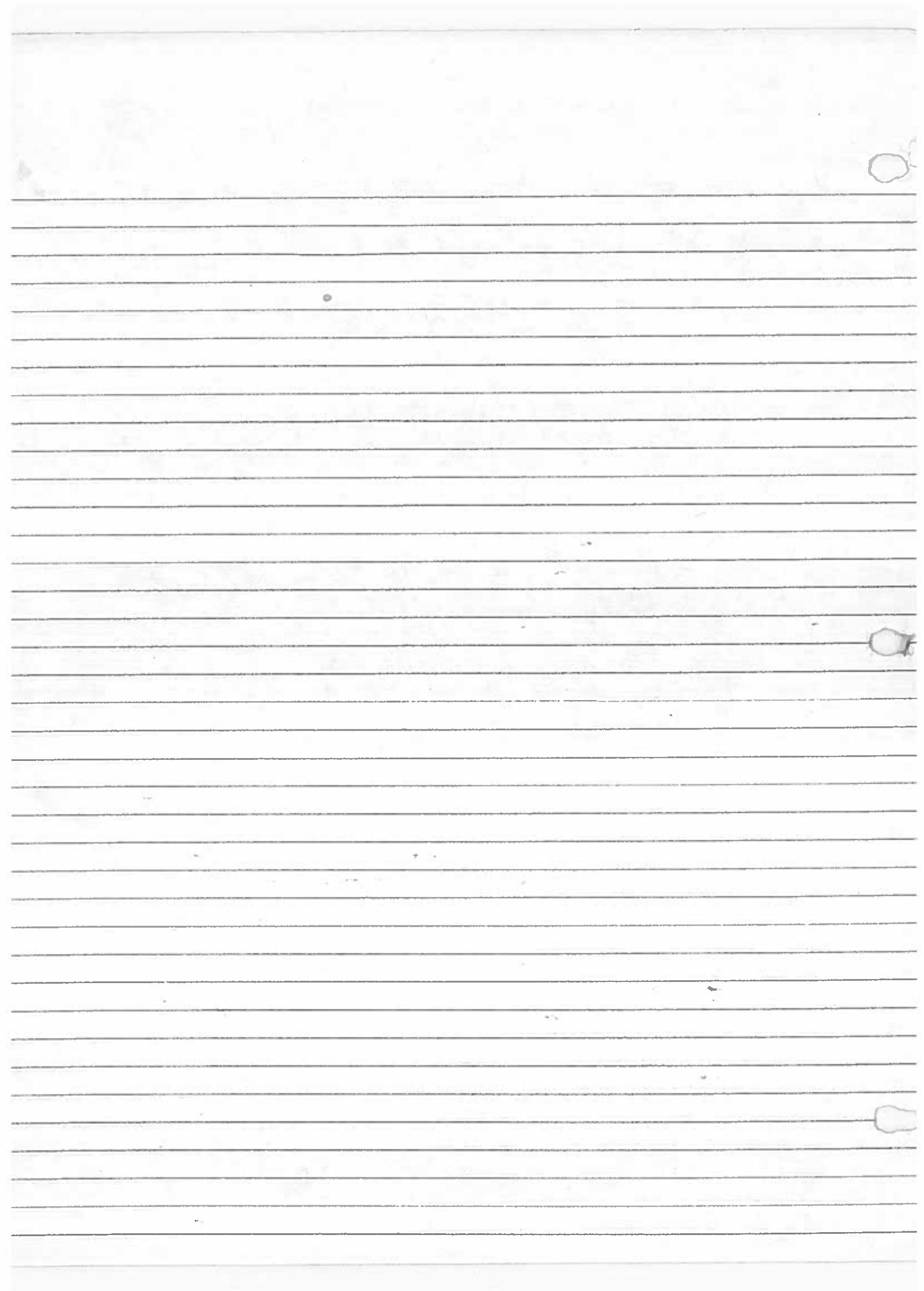
"It's all right to go back  
to the land of Israel now.  
Herod is dead."

So the family travelled back to Judea.

But they found Herod's son in Herod's place as his

An angel came to Joseph in a dream, & told him that Herod's son would want to hurt Jesus if he knew him, so they should not stay there, but travel on to Nazareth, a hilly country of Palestine.

So Joseph took Mary & the Baby Jesus to Nazareth. There they found Herod's brother was king in Nazareth. Herod's brother would not bother Jesus, so they stayed there.



Jesus went to school and learned to read.

At school, he also learned about Heavenly Father with the other boys.

He learned about Heavenly Father at church, too.

He learned how to be kind and helpful.

He was never mean.

At home, Jesus learned how to be a carpenter, and how to make things out of wood.

His step-father, Joseph, taught him.

Joseph and Mary were proud of Jesus.

When Jesus had turned 12 years old, they took him on a long trip to a big city called Jerusalem.

There, they would be part of a big party called "The Feast of the Passover."

It would last for seven days.

They would eat special food, and go to church at the temple, there.

There would be a family night, too, with special things to do.

Jesus and his family walked to Jerusalem with a lot of other people who were going there, too.

With so many people walking together,

the robbers hiding behind the rocks

at the side of the road

were afraid to take Jesus' parents' money.

So Jesus' parents made plans with the people

to walk back home to Galilee with them after the big party was over.

They all got to Jerusalem in time for the start of the party.

They ate the special food, had their special

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family night, and went to church in the Temple.

When it was all over, the people and Jesus' family started the long trip home.

At first, his parents couldn't find him, and they thought He must be with someone else that was also going home with the people.

They asked those others, but they, too, had not seen Jesus. They asked each one of the people

as they walked with them towards home.

No one knew where Jesus was.

His parents began to worry a lot.

It took a whole day to ask everyone if they had seen Jesus.

Since no one had seen Him, his parents, Joseph & Mary, decided to see if he was still back in Jerusalem.

When they got back in Jerusalem, they asked everyone they knew if they had seen Jesus.

No one had.

They began to worry more.

What if Jesus had been kidnapped?

They began to ask strangers if they knew where Jesus was. Three days went by, and Jesus was still lost.

They passed by the temple.

Looking in, Mary caught sight of Jesus.

Mary & Joseph went in.

They found Him talking about church with the church leaders.

Mary was surprised to hear Him telling them things that they didn't know.

And yet Jesus was only a boy.

How could He know more than those church leaders?

Jesus was Heavenly Father's son.

Heavenly Father could talk to Jesus easier than to those church leaders.

So Jesus knew a lot about the church that those leaders did not know.

Mary was happy and proud that her son was so smart, but she and Joseph had worried a lot because Jesus had not told them where he was.

She said, "Son, you have hurt us by not telling us where you were going."

Jesus answered, "My real father, Heavenly Father, knew. (Jesus was the only one whose real father was Heavenly Father) I had to do something that He wanted."

But Mary said, "Come with us, son."

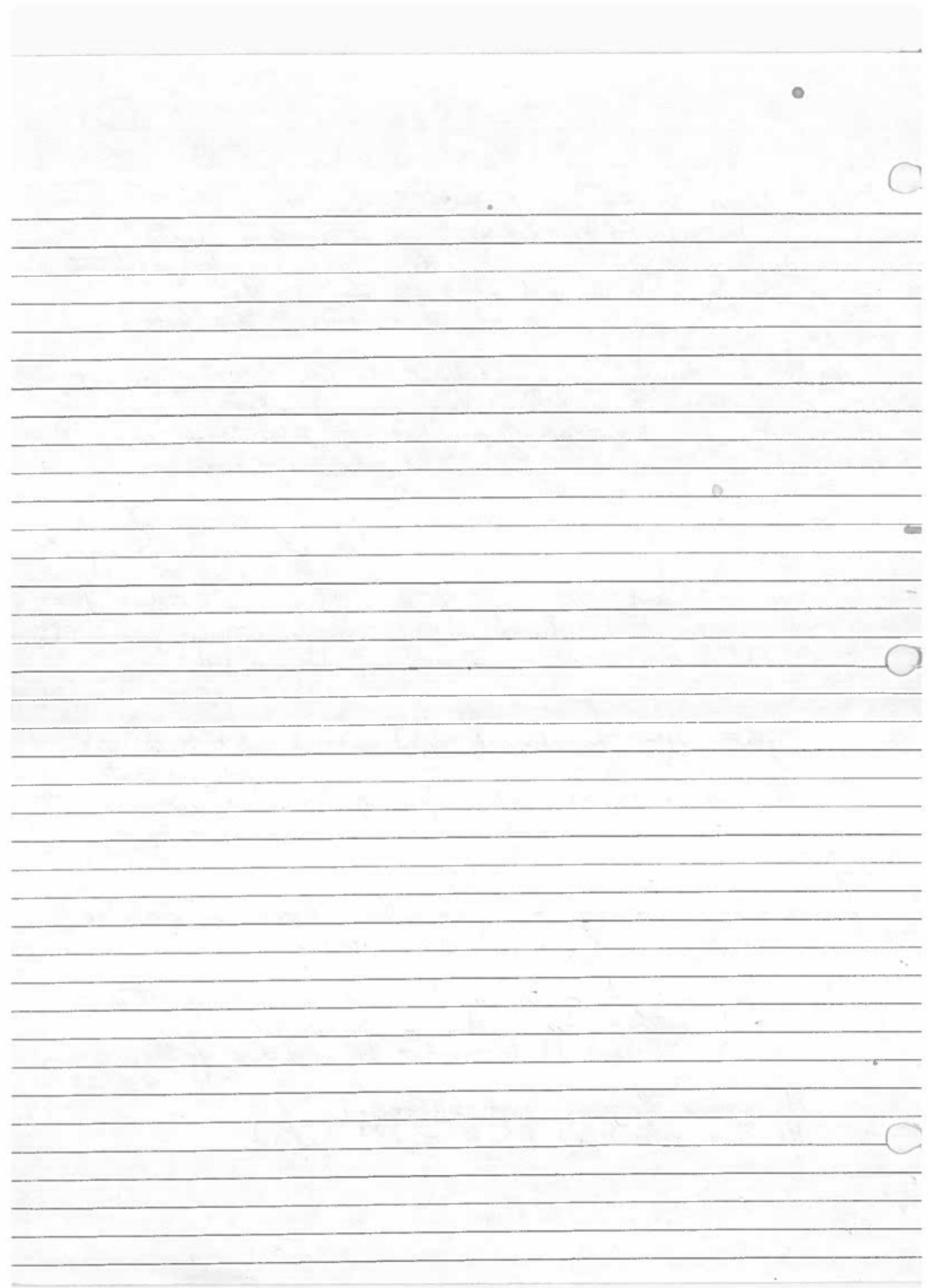
Jesus left the church leaders and went with his parents.

One of the church rules was to go with your mother right when she wants you to go.

When they finally reached their home in Galilee, they were a happy family.

Jesus learned how to work hard as a carpenter. He watched his father work, and then he did what He saw his father do.

He grew bigger and stronger. He was always kind and helpful.



When Jesus was grown up to be 30 years old,  
He went on a trip.

He walked from his home in Galilee

to a place in the Jordan River where  
a rough man named John was baptizing people.

John told Jesus that He ought to baptize him, instead,  
but Jesus said that it was important  
for John to baptize him.

So John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.

Right after that, a dove came and landed on Jesus.

This was a sign that the Spirit of God  
had come to Jesus.

When the dove landed, everyone around heard a  
voice from Heaven say,

"This is my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Then John remembered that he had been told

"whoever a dove lands on after you have baptized him  
is Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

So John knew that this was Jesus Christ.

And Jesus walked away.

He felt like going to a place far away from people.

He went to the hot, dry desert.

He stayed there all alone.

He did not take any food or water with him,

because he wanted to fast from food and water.

He got thirsty. He got hungry.

But He did not drink anything, nor did he eat anything.

He did not take a sleeping bag or a tent,

but he slept out in the desert.

He said his prayers many times out there.

He stayed out in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights.

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Then the devil came to Jesus in the desert,  
just when He was hungrier than He had ever been.

The devil told Him,

"Try and see if you are really the Son of God;  
try to turn these stones over here into bread.  
You do want some bread to eat, don't you?"

Jesus thought, "I am the Son of God, but if  
I make those stones turn into bread,  
I'll be doing what the devil wants  
me to do. I would be the devil's  
servant; I can't do that.  
God does not serve the devil."

So Jesus told the devil,

"No, I'll eat what my Father in Heaven  
wants me to eat. He'll bring  
me something."

So the devil couldn't get Jesus to obey him.

Next, the devil took Jesus to the top of a very high tower.  
He said, "If your Father in Heaven likes you,  
He'll surely send angels to help you fly  
if you jump from here. Go ahead and  
jump to see if He loves you."

Jesus only said, "It is wrong to play with  
Heavenly Father's love, like that.  
If He tells me to jump, I'll jump;  
but I won't jump for you —  
you're the devil."

Two times now, the devil couldn't get Jesus to obey him.

Next, the devil took Jesus to a high mountain, and showed Him how many cities and countries and people you could see from the top of the mountain.

Then he said,

"Anybody who owns all this is rich. I'll give you all the cities, countries, and people, if you will kneel down in front of me and promise to do anything I ask you to do."

The devil had forgotten that Heavenly Father owned all the earth, and that the devil couldn't give any of it away.

Jesus told the devil:

"Go away; Heavenly Father is the only One we should obey, or kneel down to."

Three times now, the devil couldn't get Jesus to obey him. Right then, he went away.

As soon as the devil had gone, angels came to Jesus and gave him water to drink and a dinner to eat. They talked to him, and told him that they loved Him, and that Heavenly Father loved Him, too.

When this was done, Jesus went back to where John was baptizing and stayed there a few days.

Whenever Jesus walked near to John, John would say "There goes the Son of God".

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Two of John's friends were watching one day.  
They were Andrew and John.  
When he said "There goes the Son of God,"  
they followed Jesus.

Jesus stopped, turned around, and asked them  
"What do you want?"

Andrew and John were a little surprised, but said,  
"Master, show us where you live."  
Jesus said "Come and see", and together  
They walked to where Jesus was staying.  
They talked for a long time.

Andrew thought Jesus was so wonderful, that  
he ran home and told his brother  
Simon "We have found the Messiah".

Simon got excited

He knew Andrew must be talking  
about the Son of God.

He ran back with Andrew to where Jesus was.

Jesus didn't know Simon before, but  
He said "You're Simon, aren't you?  
I will call you 'the rock'."

Simon liked that.

The next day, Jesus and his new friends  
started on a journey to  
Galilee, where Jesus' home was.

As they walked along, Jesus saw a man  
who he thought was choice.

This was Philip.

He called to Philip, and said, "Follow me."

Philip joined Jesus and his friends.

As they all walked along, Philip thought of a friend of his who might like Jesus.

He ran off and found his friend Nathanael, sitting under a fig tree, thinking.

He told him, "I have found the Savior, Jesus Christ." Nathanael replied that he thought the Savior was to come from another country, not their little country, that was not important. But Philip said, "Come and see."

They ran and caught up with Jesus.

Jesus saw them coming, and said "Nathanael, you're an honest man."

Nathanael was surprised, and said "How did you know?"

Jesus told him, "Even before Philip talked to you, I saw you sitting under the fig tree."

Nathanael was amazed.

Now he was sure that this man, Jesus Christ, was the Son of God. Jesus told Nathanael that one day he would see angels coming to Jesus from Heaven.

Then they came to the town where Jesus' old home was.

There was someone getting married there, and they had a big party.

Jesus' mother was there at the party. Jesus and all his friends went to the party.

Jesus' mother told him that the punch bowl was empty. Inside herself she wanted Jesus to make more punch by doing a miracle.

Jesus said that it might not be the right time to do a miracle.

Only Heavenly Father says when to do miracles.

In a little while, Jesus felt good inside about making more punch by a miracle.

He told the servants to fill 6 pots with water. They used pots that looked like flower pots, or vases.

He then told them to use what was in those pots when they needed punch.

People watching said "What good will that do? There's just water in those pots."

Jesus had the servants pour some out, anyway, into the punch bowl, and it was punch.

When the punch was served to the leader of the party, he went to the one getting married, & asked,

"Usually people serve the good punch first, and the ordinary punch now, but you've saved the best punch for now."

Jesus' friends were all amazed that Jesus had made punch from water without touching it.

After a while, it became time to go to Jerusalem  
for the Passover feast.  
Jesus and his friends and his family walked there.  
It took 3 days.

Jesus went to the temple there.  
He found storekeepers had made parts of the temple  
into stores.

This was not right.  
All you saw there was buying and selling.  
No one could worship Heavenly Father  
reverently.

So Jesus made a whip out of some small ropes,  
and drove out the storekeepers  
and then animals to sell.

He was careful not to upset the bird cages, tho,  
because the birds couldn't get out.

But He told the bird keepers,

"Take all this out of here.

The temple is My Father's house, not yours.

Then, all the people that sold things had left the temple,  
and Jesus could worship there reverently.

Some important people asked Jesus

who had told him to do this.

Jesus said, "Destroy this temple, and in 3 days I will  
raise it up."

He meant that if they killed him,

He would come alive again after 3 days,  
but they didn't know that.

That night one of the important men in Jerusalem  
came to ask Jesus some questions.

He came at night so that none of his  
important friends would see him with Jesus.

They would make fun of him if they did see him.

He was impressed by Jesus' miracles.

Jesus told him right away,

"Nicodemus, unless you're born again,

you can't see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus was surprised.

He said "I don't want to be a baby again!"

Jesus said, "It's a rule:

You have to be born of the water,

and of the Spirit,

before you can go into the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus still did not understand.

Jesus said, "Don't you know? The birth I mean  
is not to become a baby again  
to your mother and father."

Nicodemus was still puzzled.

Jesus said, "Here that wind out there?

You can tell there is a wind,

but you can't tell what started it.

I don't think you understand spiritual things, either.

Nicodemus asked, "How can these things be?"

Jesus answered, "You're supposed to be smart,

but you're smart about the wrong things."

Jesus also told Nicodemus that He was the Son of God,  
the Savior, and that He would be crucified.

Nicodemus listened very carefully,

but went away unsure of himself.

He never got baptized for a long time.

If he had been baptized,  
his friends would have made fun of him.

Jesus and his friends started to walk from Jerusalem back home to Galilee.

They passed through a land full of people that Jesus' friends did not like.  
(But Jesus was willing to like them.)

They stopped to rest where there was a well of water. His friends went off to a store to buy food, and Jesus was alone.

Pretty soon there came a lady to fill her water jar from the well.

Jesus said to her, "Please get me a drink."

The lady was surprised, and asked,

"If you Jews hate us, why do you talk to me, and ask for a drink?"

Jesus said, "If you only knew who I really am, you would ask me to teach you, because you would enjoy my teaching."

The lady asked, "Do you think you're greater than the prophet that made this well so many years ago?"

Jesus told her that he had water which would never let her be thirsty again, after just one sip. The lady wanted this water, but what Jesus talked of was water for our spirits, not for our bodies or mouths.

You have to be spiritually clean to have just one sip, even so Jesus tested her spirit by asking, "Go, and bring your husband."

The lady said, "I have no husband."

Jesus said, "Yes, I know. You have had 5 husbands and your man now is not really your husband, either."

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That meant that Jesus knew that her spirit was not as clean as it should be.

The lady was surprised that Jesus knew so much about her, so fast.

She said to Jesus, "You must be a prophet."

"There is supposed to be a man called Christ who will tell us all things."

Jesus told her, "I am Jesus Christ."

The lady ran off, leaving her water jar, and told everyone she met how Jesus had known so much about her, saying,

"Doesn't that mean He's our Savior?"

Right then, Jesus' friends came back with the food. Jesus told them that he wasn't hungry. They were surprised, and wondered if he had found some other food, but Jesus told them,

"I get full just by doing what Heavenly Father wants me to do."

Pretty soon a big crowd of people came toward Jesus. They had heard what the lady had said. Now they listened to Jesus themselves.

Most of them said, "Now we know ourselves that this is Jesus Christ, and that He is the Savior of the world."

They asked Jesus to stay with them a while.

Jesus and his friends stayed 2 days there with the people.

Many of those people were baptized.

After a day's walk, Jesus and his friends reached a city called Cana.

An important man came to Jesus, and said,

"My boy is dying. Come to my house and heal him."

Jesus said, "All you people want is miracles."

Miracles won't help you get faith."

But the man asked again, "Please come and heal my boy."

Jesus told him, "You can go home, because your boy is all better from this time on."

The man thanked Jesus, and went home happy.

He didn't hurry, like he had hurried to see Jesus.

Inside, he had a good feeling about his boy.

Halfway there, people from his family came running to tell him that his boy was all better.

He asked them when it had happened. They told him.

He knew that it had happened just when Jesus had said that his boy was better.

The man and his family all went and got baptized.

The Saturday after Jesus got home, He went to church.

He got to give a talk.

He first read what the prophet Isaiah had written about Jesus Christ.

Then He told them, "This prophet talked about me."

The people in church were all surprised.

They said, "He lives just down the street. He can't be the Savior."

They wanted Him to show them that He was

by doing a great miracle for them to see.

Jesus said, "I can't. I can only do miracles

with people who believe I'm the Savior.

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But those people wanted a miracle to see more than ever.  
They wrestled with Jesus.  
They took Him to the edge of a cliff,  
and wanted to throw him over.

But just as they got near the very edge,  
Jesus turned around.  
They let go of Him.

Jesus walked away from the crowd of people.  
No one felt like stopping Him.

When he had gone, they wondered how He had got away.

Jesus went to the next city, Capernaum.

The next Saturday, He went to church there.  
He got to talk, again.

A man there with an evil spirit in him, yelled,  
"I know you; you're the Savior."

Jesus told the evil spirit in the man to not talk  
anymore,

and to come out of the man.

The evil spirit had to do what Jesus said.

It left the man limp on the ground,  
but he was all right.

Everyone thought it was wonderful that  
this man called Jesus could  
tell evil spirits just what to do.

Later that night, many people brought their sick friends  
to Jesus, and he made them better.  
Some had evil spirits, and Jesus told evil spirits to not talk  
and come right out.

Jesus didn't want any evil spirit saying that He was  
the Savior; that didn't do any good.  
He wanted the people around Him to say it,  
once they believed it.

The next morning, Jesus got up while it was still dark, and went into a forest to pray. Some time after it was light, His friends found him, and told Him that many people were waiting to see Him.

But Jesus said, "No, I must go to other cities.  
I cannot stay." So they went to other cities.

In one city, a leper came and knelt down before Jesus. He said, "Will you please heal me?"

Jesus liked that, because the leper showed that he knew Jesus could heal him, and had only asked, "Will you please?"

And Jesus put his hand on the leper, and said, "Yes. You are healed."

Jesus told the man to keep this a secret, but the man ran off and told everybody he saw how he had been healed.

After that everybody wanted to see Jesus, and Jesus had to take His friends, and hide outside the city.

But still some people found Him, and came to see Him.

Later, Jesus and His friends went back to the city Capernaum, and taught people in a house.

One man who was so sick that he shook all over, so bad that he could not walk, heard where Jesus was, and had 4 friends take him in a little bed to the house where Jesus was.

But they could not get near Jesus, because there were so many people.

Seeing this, his 4 friends climbed to the roof of the house with him in his bed.

They had an idea...

The roofs of houses, then, were flat, and had an air hole in them.

The friends broke away pieces of roof from the air hole, until it was as large as the little bed.

Then they got some ropes, and let the little bed down through the hole until their sick friend was right in front of Jesus.

Jesus admired the faith of those men, and of the sick man.

He said to the sick man,

"Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

Some important people there thought,

"But only God can forgive sins."

"We don't believe that Jesus is God."

Jesus, being God, knew their thoughts, said to them,

"Why do you wonder?

Would God also be able to heal him?"

Then Jesus said, "So that you can know that I can do either one, I'll do both."

And he said to the sick man,

"Get up. You're better."

Take your bed up and put it away."

And the sick man did just that.

When He was done talking in the house,

Jesus and His friends went to the beach.  
All the people followed them there, to hear more.  
So Jesus taught them some more.

Then He walked on, and passed by where a tax collector named Matthew was sitting.  
Jesus asked Matthew to "Come, Follow Me," and he did.

One day soon, Matthew held a party for his friends who were tax collectors.  
He invited Jesus, too, and Jesus went with His friends.

Now, the important people thought tax collectors were bad. When they saw Jesus go in, they asked, "If Jesus is so nice, why does he go where bad people are?" They wanted to make fun of Jesus.

But Jesus told them, "Don't you think that doctors ought to go to the sick people? Good people don't need teaching; just bad ones do."

These important people felt silly for asking such a question and went away.

On another day, Jesus got into Peter's boat with him, and talked to the people as they sat on the shore.

After He was finished, Jesus told Peter and his brother Andrew, to let down the nets and catch some fish.

Andrew didn't think they would get any, because he had tried, but they rowed to the middle of the lake and let one net down, anyway.

(28)

In just a few minutes, the net was very full  
of fish.

Peter was amazed, and said, "This can't happen to us."

But Jesus told him,

"Don't worry. You've been a good fisherman.  
From now on, come with me, and I will  
make you a fisher of men."

And Peter liked that.

He and Andrew, and James and John went with Jesus.

The people where Jesus lived were very fussy about  
what you did on Saturdays,  
because Saturday was their Sunday.

One Saturday Jesus visited a place where there was  
a pool of water.

It would make you better from  
whatever sickness you had, if only  
you were the first to go into the  
water after it bubbled.

Jesus noticed one man who was so crippled that  
everybody else got to the water before him,  
and he could never get better.

Jesus felt sorry for that man.

He went over and asked him "Are you ready to get better?"

The man said, "I'm always ready, but others beat me to the water." Jesus said to him "Get up. Pick up your little bed, and walk."

Right away the man got strong in his legs and arms  
and stood up holding his little bed,  
and then walked away.

Now, that man passed by some important people.

The important men were fussy about what you did  
on Saturday.

They told him to stop carrying his bed on Saturday.  
It was against the law, they said.

The man said, "I'm only doing what I was told to  
by the man who made me better."

At this, the important man said,

"It's against the law, also, to make people better  
on Saturdays."

Who made you better?"

The man wanted to point to Jesus, because he didn't  
know His name,  
but Jesus had walked away.

Later that day, however, the man met Jesus again,  
this time in the temple.

Jesus told the man,

"Now you're all better. Don't be mean  
again, and you won't get sick."

After that, the man found the important men and told them  
that it was Jesus who had made him better.

Those men went right to where Jesus was and told him  
that they wanted to put Him in jail for making  
people better on Saturdays.

Jesus told them, "I only do what I see my Father do,  
and Heavenly Father helps you on  
any day of the week."

They didn't believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God,  
so they thought He was wrongly saying  
that Heavenly Father was His only Father.  
This made them angry.

(30)

But Jesus still told them, "It is I who shall judge everybody when they're resurrected."

You should know that I am the Son of God, because John the Baptist told you I was. Search the scriptures in the right way and you can learn about Me.

You like being important, but you are not kind and helpful.

And those important people went away amazed.

Another time Jesus' friends were eating corn in a cornfield, and some other important people said, "It's Saturday! You can't have a picnic on Saturday!"

But Jesus told them that it was He Himself who had made their Saturday a day of rest, so if He was there, they could have a picnic.

Another time Jesus was at church, and He was ready to make a man's crooked hand straight again.

The important people there said,

"You can't make people better on Saturday. It's against the law."

Jesus asked them back,

"Do you mean it's against the law to do good?"

Those people didn't know what to say,

so Jesus said, "Well, it must be all right, then."

Then Jesus told the man with the crooked hand to hold his hand out in front of him. When he did, it was straight, not crooked anymore.

Still, the important people were mad at Jesus.

One night, Jesus didn't go to bed.

Instead, He went out to the forest in the dark.

There, He knelt down and prayed.

He never slept at all.

He prayed all night long.

He wanted to make some important choices the next day.

When morning came, He went to where His friends were waiting.

Many other people came, besides.

Jesus called some of His friends close to him.

He told them that He wanted them to be apostles.

He laid His hands on each one that said yes,  
and ordained each one an apostle.

When He was through, there were 12 apostles.

Their names were:

Peter, James, John, Andrew,  
Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas,  
James, Judas, Simon, and another Judas.

Peter had been a rich fisherman, but he gave that up  
to be an apostle.

A little later, Jesus was with all of His friends  
on the side of a small hill.

He told them that Heavenly Father blesses us when He  
is happy with us.

He told them how to make Heavenly Father happy with us.

He said, "If you feel you need to be kind & helpful more than you  
are already, I'll give you part of My kingdom."

"If someone you love has died, you will know  
that it's OK."

"If you don't hit back, you can own the whole earth."  
"If you want to learn, you will be able to."

"If you're kind to all creatures, Jesus Christ will be kind to you."

"If you never tell lies, you can go into the same room where Heavenly Father is."

"If you try to stop fights, Heavenly Father will call you his child, & love you."

"If people make fun of you for belonging to My church, I'll share with you all the nice things in Heaven."

Then Jesus told His apostles,

"By being apostles, you are special, just like the flavor of salt is special."

Try hard too not lose any of your flavor.

"By being apostles, you are like candles."

Don't hide your candles in a box where no one can see their light."

He told them that:-

"In the old days, it was wrong to kill; now it's wrong to even be mad."

"Always make up with your brother before going to church."

"In the old days, it was wrong for fathers to love some other lady who was not his wife; now it's wrong to even look at another lady."

"In the old days, it was wrong to say Heavenly Father's name except when you were talking to Him or about Him; now it was the same."

"It used to be alright to hit back; now it was wrong."

"It used to be alright to be mean to people who bothered you."

Now you must be kind to them!"

"You see, Heavenly Father makes it so that both His enemies and His friends get food to eat. We should also treat our enemies as good as we treat our friends."

"If you do these things, you'll become more like Heavenly Father."

He said, "Pay your tithing because you want to, not because you want your friends to think you're good."

He told them how to pray, beginning by saying, "Heavenly Father," and we are to end by saying,

"In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen."

He told them to never tell someone else they were doing wrong until they were first doing right. Also, "Don't tell your precious secrets to just anybody." They may ruin them.

"Be sure to treat other people exactly how you want them to treat you."

"Watch out for what strangers might do. Don't believe what they say until you see that they do it, also."

"And you apostles be sure to do all I've told you."

Then you'll be like the house built on a rock:

When the wind came, & the water, it was OK.

Not doing all this will be like the house built on sand: the wind and water washed it away."

After this, Jesus walked back into the city, Capernaum.

Some people there told Him that an army captain wanted Him to come and heal his servant,

who was ready to die.

Jesus and these people walked to the captain's house.

But the captain sent someone to the door and they said

"The captain does not think he is worthy to have the Savior of the world come into his house. But just have Jesus say the words out there, and he knows that his servant will then get better."

The captain knew that, just like he could tell one of his soldiers to put up a tent, Jesus could tell an angel to make his servant well.

Jesus liked that. He said, "This stranger, the captain, has more faith than many of my friends. He will get to heaven easier than many of you."

The next day, Jesus went to the town called, Nain. A lot of people followed Jesus there.

As they walked along, a funeral procession passed by. A boy had died.

His mother was there; she was crying.

There was no father to help the mother.

He had died, too, long ago.

Jesus felt sorry for their mother.

He stopped the funeral.

He told the mother to stop crying,

and went to the box where her boy's body was.

He said, "Young man, get up!"

The boy sat right up in the box and said "Hello" to Jesus.

Jesus took him by the hand, and told him to go over to his mother.

The boy and his mother hugged & kissed, and went home.

The funeral people didn't know what to do, but they thought it was good.

One day, Jesus was invited to have dinner at an important person's house.

As He was eating a lady came in and went to Jesus. She knelt down and kissed His feet. Then she began to cry, very softly. Her tears dropped on Jesus' feet, washing them. She was very sad about something she had done that was bad.

Next, she used her long hair to dry Jesus' feet. Then, she put some oil on His feet.

The important man who was giving Jesus dinner thought that this lady ought not to touch Jesus, because of the bad thing she had done long ago.

Jesus knew what he was thinking.

He asked the man,

"Two men owed a store some money. One owed 50 pennies; the other owed 500.

The storekeeper told each of them that it was OK; they did not have to pay.

Which man do you suppose loved the storekeeper more?

His important friend answered,

"The one who owed him 500 pennies."

Jesus then told him, "See this lady?

You haven't offered me water to wash my feet.

She has washed my feet with her tears."

"I forgive her for that bad thing which she did,  
and she loves me a lot.

You haven't done anything nearly as bad,  
and so you would love me less."

Jesus then told the lady,

"Your sins are forgiven.

Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace."

One time Jesus cast an evil spirit out of a man who couldn't see or talk, besides.

The people around there thought that was marvelous. They were happy to know Jesus Christ. They said He was the Savior.

But the important people did not want the others to think that.

They said, "Jesus uses the devil's power to cast out devils."

But Jesus told them how wrong their thoughts were.

He said "The devil wants those evil spirits to bother people, so why would he let anybody cast them out?"  
"I cast them out by Heavenly Father's power."

Then this made those important people ask that Jesus do a great miracle, as a sign to them that He was sent from God.

Jesus said,

"Only mean people look for miracles.

No, I won't do a miracle just because you want one.

The people in Nineveh that the prophet Jonah was sent to repented without seeing any signs.  
Why won't you?"

Those important people didn't know what to say.

The people around Jesus liked Him all the more.

Jesus told some stories.

He said, "A man was planting some wheat in a field. He let the wheat drop from his hand to the ground. Some of it landed where the dirt had not been dug up, and it wasn't long before some birds saw it laying there on top of the ground, and came and ate it up. Some of the wheat landed among some rocks. Later, it sprouted, but there was not much dirt for it to put its roots into, and when the sun got hot, it died. Some of the wheat landed among some small weeds. When it grew, the weeds grew, too, and it never got enough sun, and it died, too. But some of the wheat landed where the dirt had been dug, and it grew strong, and for each wheat seed there grew a wheat stalk with 50 wheats on it."

The 12 apostles wondered what that story meant.

When they asked Jesus, He said,

"The wheat seed is like someone hearing that he should be kind and helpful.

Some people don't understand why they should be kind and helpful, so they forget about it.

That is like the wheat seeds that the birds ate.

Some people like to be kind and helpful, but they soon stop, because their friends make fun of them when they're nice.

That is like the wheat seeds that landed in the rocks.

Some people like to be kind and helpful, but

they still like to grab toys away from others, and they soon forget all about being nice.

That is like the wheat that landed in the weeds.

Some people do their best to be kind and helpful, for a long time, and what they do makes 50 other people want to be nice, too.

That is like the wheat that landed in the good dirt,

and grew to make 50 other wheat seeds.

Another story Jesus told was:

"A man planted some wheat in a field. That night, a bad man went into that field, and planted weeds on top of where the wheat was planted. When the wheat grew, the weeds grew, too. The man said "A bad man has done this." But the man did not go pull up the weeds. He said, "Since the wheat and the weeds are so close together, pulling up the weeds might hurt the roots of the wheat." The man waited until it was time to cut the wheat and store it for food. When that time came, he pulled up all the weeds, put them in a big pile, and burned them. Then he went and cut all the wheat and stored it away for food."

When the 12 apostles asked Him to explain it, Jesus said,

"The wheat is like people that are kind and helpful.

The weeds are like people that are mean.

The bad man is the devil.

When it is time for the end of the world,

the mean people will get caught in a fire, and the kind and helpful people will get to go meet the Jesus Christ."

Another time, Jesus said,

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. It's small when you plant it, but grows to be bigger than a man."

and,

"The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast in your mother's bread. She uses just a little, but that little bit goes all over and makes the whole bread rise."

Jesus also said,

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure in a field. When a man finds it, he uses all his money to buy that field, so the treasure can be his."

and

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who found a very beautiful pearl in a store, and he used all his money to buy that pearl."

and

"The kingdom of heaven is like a net full of fish. The fishermen will throw out the bad fish, and will save the good fish."

About the time that night came,  
an important man came to see Jesus,  
wanting to be an apostle.

Jesus told him,

"That would mean you could not live any longer  
in your nice house."

The man decided he didn't want to be an apostle  
after all.

Another man wanted to be an apostle, too,  
but Jesus told him that it would be hard,  
and he couldn't go home for a long time.

That man decided he didn't want to be an apostle  
after all.

Still another man came and asked to be an apostle.

When Jesus told him it would be hard,  
he decided that he didn't want to be an apostle  
either.

Then, Jesus and His apostles got into their boat.  
They started to cross the lake.

Jesus was tired, and it was night, so  
He found a place in the back of the boat  
where he could curl up,  
and He went to sleep.

In a little while a storm came upon them.

The wind blew fiercely.

The waves got bigger and bigger that they splashed  
into the boat.

A lot of water was coming into the boat.

The apostles thought that the boat would soon sink.

They were afraid.

Jesus was not afraid; He went on sleeping.

The apostles woke him up.

They said, "Save us."

Jesus told them that if they had more faith,  
they would not be afraid.

Jesus saw that the wind was fierce

and that the waves were high.

He told the wind, "You shouldn't be so strong around here."

He told the water, "Peace, be still."

The wind stopped. There wasn't even a breeze.

The waves went away. The water looked flat.

The apostles were amazed.

Jesus went back to sleep.

The next morning, they landed their boat on the shore.  
It was near a place where a lot of caves were.

A man who had evil spirits in him lived there.

He acted crazy. He hurt himself on purpose.

He had broken out of jail by bending the bars.

He screamed a lot. He never wore any clothes.

that man ran toward Jesus, and the evil spirits in him said,

"What have I got to do with you, Jesus;  
you're the Son of God."

Jesus told the evil spirits to go out of the man.

The evil spirits said,

"Please don't send us away."

Jesus asked their names.

The man said,

"My name is Legion, for we are many."

"If we have to leave this man's body,  
may we please enter the bodies of  
those pigs over there?"

Jesus also saw that there were about 2000 pigs in a herd that was passing by.

Jesus gave his permission.

Right away, all of the pigs seemed to go crazy.

They ran as fast as they could.

They ran down a steep hill to the lake.

They plunged into the lake, and drowned;  
they could not swim.

The man that had acted crazy before,  
now sat quietly by Jesus.

Friends brought him clothes, and he put them on.

People in towns nearby came to see what all the splashing had been about.

They saw that the pigs were all drowned.

They saw the man dressed, and sitting by Jesus.

They thought that Jesus was a powerful man.

They did not feel worthy to have Jesus with them,  
so they asked Jesus to travel on.

to other towns,  
and to not stay there.

So Jesus went back to his boat.

That man wanted to go with Jesus,  
but Jesus told him to go home  
and tell how He had helped him.

The man went home, and became a missionary.

Jesus and His friends crossed back over the lake  
in their boat.

There were people already waiting for Him there.

A man named Jarius, an important man, came  
and asked Jesus to make his little girl  
better. She was so sick that  
she was almost dead.

Jesus walked to Jarius' house.

On the way there, a sick lady made her way  
through all the people around Jesus,  
and got close enough to touch the  
bottom of His robe.

Jesus may never have felt her touch His robe,  
but she was healed, and Jesus felt  
virtue go out of him.

Jesus stopped and turned to the large crowd,  
and said, "Who touched me?"

Then the lady came close and said, "I did."  
Jesus told her that she had great faith,  
and He was glad she was better.

Right then, people came from Jarius' house,  
saying, "The little girl has died."

Several apostles told Jarius,

"Go home now, leave Jesus alone;  
He can't help you now."

Jarius was very sad.

But Jesus said, "Don't be afraid, Jairus; only believe, and they went to Jairus' house.

Jesus only let 3 of His apostles go with Him and Jairus in to see the little girl.

All the neighbors were there crying over her.

Jesus told them,

"Why are you crying? She is not dead. She sleeps." But they said they all knew she was dead.

They made fun of what Jesus had said.

Jesus commanded all those neighbors to leave the house. Then it was all quiet.

Then Jesus walked up to the girl, who had been lain on a bed.

He said, "Little girl, I tell you, get up."

The little girl sat up, got off of the bed, and walked around the room.

Jesus told Jairus to get her some dinner, because she would soon be hungry.

Then He told everyone to never tell what had happened there.

Then He and His friends went away.

But two blind men followed them, yelling,

"Thou son of David, have mercy on us."

Jesus did not stop; he turned a corner and went into a house.

The blind men followed him there.

Jesus asked them, "Do you believe that I can make you see?"

They both said, "Yes, Lord."

(44)

Jesus then touched their eyes, and said,  
"If your faith is strong, you are healed."

The two men could see; they were happy.  
They told everyone they met how they were made better,  
even though Jesus had told them  
to keep it a secret.

Jesus again visited his home town of Nazareth.

Still, He could do no miracles there,  
because they all said,

"You can't be the Son of God, because you  
live just down the street."

"You've got ordinary brothers and sisters."

So Jesus left his home town.

The apostles had been with Jesus for some months  
and Jesus sent them to other cities to preach.

He told them =

"Heal the sick; pray a lot, so that you  
can say the right things to others."

"Mean men will want to hurt you,  
but don't be afraid - Heavenly Father will help.

He knows each little bird's name, and knows when  
any of them is hurt. He'll watch for you, too."

So the 12 apostles went to other cities and preached.

In a few weeks, they came back and told Jesus  
how wonderful their missions had been.

The crowd around Jesus was so big that they could  
hardly talk to him.

Jesus took the Twelve to a boat. They got in,  
and sailed across the lake.

They landed, and climbed up a hill there,  
and talked for a little while.

The apostles told Jesus how they had been able  
to heal the sick, using Jesus' authority.

A large crowd of people came and sat on the hillside near Jesus.

They wanted Him to tell them more about being kind and helpful. Jesus talked to them for a long time.

They liked it. No one got up or moved.

When the sun was ready to go down,

Jesus saw that they were hungry.

He didn't want them to have to go home hungry. He wanted to do a miracle for them.

Jesus asked Philip how much bread he thought

it would take to feed all the people.

Philip said, "It would take more than 200 loaves."

Andrew said, "I saw a boy with 5 loaves

and some fish but that wouldn't do."

Jesus said, "Bring them here; I'll help make it be enough."

Jesus told all the people to sit down in rows.

There were about 5000 people there.

Jesus took the loaves of bread and the fishes, and said a blessing on them.

Then He gave some to the apostles to eat, and gave the rest to men who would give some of it to each person.

After an hour, everyone was full.

Jesus told the apostles to gather up what food was left.

It took 12 baskets to hold what was left.

That was much more than they had had at the beginning, before Jesus blessed it.

The people liked Jesus for that,

They wanted to make him King, because

He had brought them food.

(46)

When Jesus saw this, He had the 12 apostles get in their boat and sail away.

Then Jesus made the people want to go home, instead of making Him King.

Jesus stayed on the hill and prayed to Heavenly Father. He prayed for half the night.

Then Jesus thought of the 12 apostles in their boat. He knew they were in a storm on the lake. He knew they needed help.

Jesus went down the hill, and walked onto the water. He walked a long ways on the water before He got to the apostles.

When Jesus got near the boat, the apostles saw Him and were afraid; they thought it was a ghost. Jesus called out, "Don't be afraid; it is I."

So Peter said, "If it's really you, Jesus, signal me to walk to you like you're walking — on top of the water."

Jesus said he could.

Peter climbed over the side of the boat, and put his feet on the water, and walked toward Jesus.

He was almost there, when he saw the waves and felt the wind again, and he was afraid again. When he became afraid, he began to sink.

He called out for Jesus to save him, and Jesus caught his hand, and brought him up.

Jesus asked Peter,

"Why did you begin to doubt?"

Jesus and Peter climbed into the boat.

The storm and the wind stopped.

They reached the shore safely.

In the morning, more people came to see Jesus.

He talked to them.

He healed those that were sick.

The people whom He had fed the night before also came searching for Him.

They had got some boats and come across the lake.

They found Jesus in church, talking.

They rudely walked up to the stand, and asked, "How did you get here?"

Jesus answered,

"You don't want Me because I'm the Savior, you want more food, like yesterday."

"You need food for your spirit."

"You get that by believing in Me, and by being kind & helpful."

But those people did not want to do that.

They wanted more bread, every day.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life."

"Eat the bread of life, and you'll never get hungry."

None of the important people there thought that Jesus was the Savior.

Some of the ordinary people did not believe Him, either.

They went home and left off following Him.

Some months passed by.

Certain important people came to see Jesus.

They asked Him why He and His apostles did not drop water on their hands like other people did,

when they came for dinner.  
 Jesus knew that they were mean people,  
 and He asked them a question, instead.

"Why do you let your grandfathers and grandmothers  
 go hungry when they are too old to  
 get their own food?"  
 "You should take care of them when they are old."

Then Jesus told them how foolish it was to  
 drop water on your hands just before  
 eating dinner.

"What goes into your mouth will not stop you  
 from being kind & helpful;  
 but what comes out of your mouth can."

The apostles asked Jesus to explain that to them.

Jesus said, "When you eat something,  
 your body gets strength from the good parts  
 in it, and throws away what is bad.  
 It doesn't stay in your body."

"But what words you say come from the feelings  
 in your heart, and if your mouth says  
 bad words, you know that your heart  
 keeps bad thoughts, and that can stop  
 you from being kind & helpful."

The apostles told Jesus that what He said hurt the feelings  
 of those important men.

Jesus said, "What I say only hurts mean people.  
 These people do not know how to be kind & helpful.  
 When they try to teach others how, it is like a  
 blind person leading another blind person —  
 they both fall into ditches."

"These people want to hurt me, someday."

Jesus and His apostles went on a trip, walking to another country.

They wanted to be alone.

But still, the people from this country crowded around Jesus, just as the people in Israel had done.

The people here were not Heavenly Father's favorites, as were the people in Israel, though.

So...

When a lady came to Jesus saying, "Jesus, Our Savior, Heal my daughter; she has an evil spirit in her." Jesus did not answer her. He just kept on walking. The lady kept on asking, and asking.

The apostles said, "Jesus, why don't you do what she wants? If you do, then she'll go away." Jesus said, "I am not sent to help these people now. After Israel is all kind, then Heavenly Father will tell Me to help these people."

They went into a house.

The lady came into the house, too, still asking.

Jesus looked at her and said,

"I can't take the children's bread and feed it to their dog, can I?"

He meant, "No, it is not proper to help you."

She said, "But the dog gets the crumbs, doesn't he?"

When Jesus heard this, He was impressed by her faith.

He said, "Your faith is great."

"Go home, and you will find your daughter is all better."

She went home, and found that her daughter was all better.

After some days, Jesus and His apostles travelled to yet another country.

Still, crowds of people came to see Him.

In one place, He healed a man who could not hear, and could not talk.

He touched the man's ears, He spit, and

He touched the man's tongue. Then He

prayed, and after, said, "Open Up."

Then the man found he could hear and talk.

Another time, Jesus talked to a crowd of people for so long, that suppertime passed.

There were 4000 people listening.

Jesus didn't want them to go home hungry,

so He had the apostles find what food there was.

They found 7 loaves of bread, and a few fishes.

Jesus told the people to sit on the ground in rows.

He blessed the food.

He had the apostles take some, and give it to men who would pass it down the rows.

After about an hour, everyone was full.

They gathered up what was leftover, and it filled 7 baskets.

The people then got up and went home, thankful to Jesus.

Jesus and His apostles tried teaching again in Palestine, but the important people kept bothering him with silly questions, so He soon left, with His apostles, and walked a long ways north.

While they walked, Jesus asked them, "Do you remember who people think I am?" The apostles said, "Yes. They think you're a prophet, like Elijah, or Jeremiah."

Then Jesus asked,

"But who do you think I am?" The chief apostle, Peter, answered for them all: "You are Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Jesus was happy that His apostles were sure who He was. He told Peter that Heavenly Father had told him so when he had prayed about who Jesus was. He said that this was the way to be sure about anything they would need to know when He left, and they would start a church.

That way, nothing would ever go wrong for very long, because they would always know how Heavenly Father wanted things done.

Jesus also gave Peter the right to go to Heavenly Father in prayer for the whole church, and to marry people for always.

Jesus then told the apostles how He must soon be crucified.

Peter said, "No, don't let them do it, Lord."

Jesus said, "I must let it happen; that's part of being the Savior of the world."

"If I don't, there will be no way for anyone to get back to live with Heavenly Father, ever."

(52)

Then Peter realized how important it was  
for Jesus Christ to give up His life.

After about a week,  
Jesus took the 3 chief apostles,  
Peter, James, and John,  
and went up on a high mountain with them.

Jesus knelt down and prayed. It was night.  
The 3 apostles got tired soon, and fell asleep.

After a short while, they woke up because  
there was a very bright light around them.  
They saw Jesus in front of them,  
and His face shone, like the sun.  
His clothes were shining, too.

Then they saw 2 other persons talking to Jesus.  
They also shone like Jesus.  
One was Moses.

The other was Elijah.  
They were talking about Jesus' having to give up  
His life, and be crucified.

When Moses & Elijah turned to go away,  
Peter said, "Lord, let's make 3 little houses here,  
so that You and those prophets can stay."

But a bright cloud came around them all, just then,  
and a voice said,  
"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.  
Hear ye Him."

The 3 apostles knew it was the voice of Heavenly Father.  
They quickly knelt down and  
bent as low as they could.

After that, Jesus touched them, and said,  
"You can get up now; it's all right."

The cloud was gone, the prophets were gone,  
The brightness was gone from Jesus.

Jesus told them to keep this a secret until  
after His resurrection.

A thing like resurrection was new to the apostles.  
They talked a lot about it,  
wondering how Jesus could leave a grave  
and live again.

When they got down the mountain the next morning,  
they found the other apostles were  
being made fun of, by some important men.

They had tried to cast an evil spirit out of a boy,  
and the evil spirit had stayed in.

The boy would jump into fires, act crazy,  
and jump into water, and talk funny.

The boy didn't want to do these things;  
the evil spirit made him do them.

Besides that he couldn't talk because of that evil spirit.  
The boy threw a fit when he was brought to Jesus.

Jesus asked the boy's father how long he had been like that.  
He said, "Since he was a baby. Please help us."

Jesus said, "If you have enough faith, anything is possible."  
The father said, "Yes, I believe. Help me to believe more."

Jesus told the evil spirit, "Come out of him, & never go back in.  
The boy gave an extra hard kick, and then looked  
like he was dead.

Jesus took him by the hand, and he got up, and  
went to his father.  
They both were very happy.

Later, the apostles asked Jesus why they had not been able to cast out the spirit. Jesus told them that they had to believe stronger. "For this kind, you have to pray & fast, also," He said.

Jesus said, "If your faith is small, just let it be strong, like a seed for a mustard plant. It is small, but it grows to be like a tree because of the strength in it."

"If you have as much faith as a mustard seed, you can say to a mountain, "Move over," and it will. Nothing will be impossible then."

Jesus talked some more to His apostles about His having to be crucified.

The apostles did not understand that it would really happen. They were afraid to ask why.

A few days later, Apostle Peter was walking near the house where they were staying, in the city of Capernaum. A man who wanted money for the temple asked him, "Will Jesus pay the money like others do?" Peter said, "Yes."

But when Peter went in the house, Jesus told Peter that He knew already who he had met outside and that the answer Peter gave was wrong, because, Jesus said,

"The temple really belongs to Me, not them, so I should not have to pay money."

But then Jesus said,

"But let's pay it anyway. Here is how: Go fish with a pole in the lake. Look in the mouth of the first fish you catch. There

"will be a silver dollar in there. Take it out, and give it to the man to pay for Me & you." That's just what Peter did, and the man was happy.

One day after a walk together, Jesus asked the apostles what they had been arguing about as they walked. They did not answer, for they were ashamed.

They had been arguing which of them was the greatest,

or smartest, or the best apostle.

But Jesus brought a little boy to them, and said,

"Children like this are the most important to Me."

"You don't have to be smart, or big, or best for Me to like you. Just be like a little child."

Then He told them a story:

A man had 100 sheep.

One evening when he brought them from the pasture

to the corral,

he noticed that there were only 99 sheep.

He grew worried.

He closed the corral gate, with the 99 sheep safe inside.

He went back to the pasture to look for the lost sheep.

It wasn't there.

He looked in the forest nearby.

He looked in a place where you could climb on big rocks.

Then he heard a sheep going "BAA", "BAA".

He climbed toward the sound.

Way up among the rocks, he found his lost sheep.

Its wool was caught in a thorny bush.

He got his sheep loose, but it was hurt.

He put it on his shoulders, and carried it home.

When he got home, he put that sheep to bed in the corral.

He called his friends over and said,

"Let's have a party, because I found my one lost sheep."

Jesus added, "Heavenly Father is happy, just like that, when someone stops being mean and stays kind & helpful."

As they talked some more, Jesus told them,

"If someone says something in church about you that is wrong,

you can go ask him to say that he was wrong."

"If he won't say so, you can get people that agree with you to ask him also."

"If he still won't say that he was wrong, you can take him to the Bishop who, if he agrees with you, can tell that person that he can't take the sacrament anymore."

But Peter, the chief apostle, remembered that Jesus had said it was good to forgive people for things they had done to you.

He asked Jesus,

"Should I forgive someone seven times - will that be enough?"

Jesus said, "No. 70 times 7 times would still not be enough."

Then Peter knew that it was important to forgive people all you can.

Jesus told a story:

A king had a man brought to him who owed him \$500.

The man had no money to pay him.

The king was about to sell that man as a slave.

Someone would have bought him for \$50.

But the man knelt down before the king and cried.

He said,

"Give me more time to pay you, I will."

The king felt sorry for the man, and said,  
 I've changed my mind.  
 You don't have to pay me.  
 I forgive you all that you owe me."

So the man went home happy.

But the next day, that man met someone else  
 who owed him only 10 pennies.

He said, "Pay me the 10 pennies."

The other one said, "I have no money. Please  
 give me more time to pay you.  
 I will."

But the man said, "No. I'll put you in jail  
 for not paying me."

And he put that other man in jail.

The king heard what had happened, and  
 he called the man back to see him.

He asked him

"What is this?

I forgave you \$500, just because you  
 asked me to. Shouldn't you have  
 forgiven that other man the 10 pennies?"

And the king sold the man as a slave.

The next autumn, Jesus travelled to Jerusalem

when there was a festival there.

He went to the temple and talked to the people.

The important people came there, too, and Jesus  
 knew what they wanted in their hearts.

He asked them,

"Why do you want to kill me?"

They were surprised that He knew their secret plans.

They made fun of His question, saying,

"You're crazy - Who's trying to kill you?"

The important people grew angrier as Jesus talked.  
They sent some soldiers, or police,  
to put Jesus in jail.

They themselves went to a house near the jail.

In a while, the soldiers came to them.

They had not put Jesus in jail.

The important people were very angry with the soldiers.

The soldiers explained that they had

listened to what Jesus was teaching.

It sounded so sweet, and so right,

that they liked Him.

They didn't want to hurt Him, ever.

The important people made fun of the soldiers for liking Jesus.

In a couple of days, the great party in Jerusalem ended.

Jesus still went to the temple to teach each morning.

Some important people came, bringing with them a lady  
who had not stayed with her husband.

The rule was that she should be stoned to death —

have people throw big rocks on her until she didn't

The important people wanted to see if Jesus

would change the rules.

If He did, they could put Him in jail for it.

So they asked Jesus, "What do you say?"

Jesus didn't say anything.

He stooped down and wrote with his finger in the dirt.

They kept asking, but Jesus kept writing.

Then Jesus stood up, and said,

"Let the one among you who has never done  
any wrong, throw the first stone."

Then He stooped back down, and wrote some more  
in the dirt.

The people thought about those words.

One by one, each said to himself,

"I can't throw the stone; I have done  
some things wrong, that I shouldn't have."

One by one, all the people went away.

In a few minutes, Jesus stood up again.

There was no one there but the lady.

Jesus told her,

"I'm happy that you want to do better.

Go home and stay with your husband."

A little while later, Jesus was again teaching  
some people in the temple.

Some important people came and asked Him  
strange questions.

Jesus told them answers that made them angry.

They wanted to take Jesus to jail right then,  
but they couldn't,

for Heavenly Father did not want it  
that soon.

They argued with Jesus more.

Jesus told them that they were mean inside.

They wanted Jesus to think that they weren't.

Finally, Jesus said a special word which made  
them angrier than ever.

They picked up rocks to throw at Jesus.

But Heavenly Father would not let them throw any,  
because it wasn't the right time.

Jesus walked through the people,

and out of the temple,

and went to the house where He stayed.

Later, on their Sunday, Jesus was walking through the city with His apostles.

When the apostles saw a blind man begging for food, they asked Jesus if the man had been mean, or if his father or mother had been mean, so that he was blind.

Jesus said, "That could be so, but not with this man. He is blind so that I can show the people that I can heal him."

Jesus knelt on the ground, and made some mud by spitting in the dirt.

Then He put some mud on the man's face, and told him to go wash it off. The man went away to wash.

When he came back, he was singing, & looking around. He could see now, and he was happy.

The important people called him over to talk.

They couldn't believe that Jesus had healed the man. The man told them, "He sure did."

They called the man's father & mother over.

They asked them about it, and they said,

"Our son was blind, but now he can see."

They tried to get the man to say that Jesus was a friend of the devil.

The man said, "God won't help bad people."

Jesus needed help from God to make me see. Jesus must be a prophet."

The important people were angry, & told the man never to come back.

Jesus then told the man that He was the Son of God, not just a prophet.

The man said, "I believe."

Jesus went away and stayed the winter in a house far from Jerusalem. When spring came again, He travelled back to Jerusalem, with His apostles.

They passed a city in Samaria, where people hated Jews. The people would not let Jesus & His apostles stop there for lunch, even, because they heard they were going to Jerusalem. That was mean.

When Jesus had passed that city before, the people had asked him to stay for days, and they had liked him, because He was going away from Jerusalem, not to it.

At another, friendly place, Jesus chose 70 men to be missionaries.

He had them go out and tell people about Him. He kept the 12 apostles close to Him, to tell them more about His church.

After a month, these 70 men came to where Jesus was and said, "We enjoyed being missionaries." "We could even cast out evil spirits". Jesus was happy.

Later, in a town near Jerusalem, an important man came to Jesus, while He was teaching people. He had questions to ask Jesus. He did not like Jesus.

He asked Jesus, "What do I have to do to be good?"

Jesus asked him back, "What does the Bible say?"

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The important man said,

"I should love Heavenly Father, and  
I should love my neighbor."

Jesus said, "That's right."

Then the important man asked, "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus told him a story:

A man was walking along the road between 2 cities.  
Robbers caught him and hurt him, and took all  
of his money & clothing.

They left him there half dead.

After a while, a priest came by.

He looked at him and hurried on his way.

Next an important man came by.

He stopped to look, but then went on his way.

Next, someone came by whom that man had called a bad name.  
But this man felt sorry for him, enough to  
put bandages on him where he was hurt,  
and to give him a drink of water.

Then he let him ride on his donkey.

When they got to the next town,

that man was still sick, so

he took him to a hotel to stay.

He gave the hotel man enough money

for that man to stay 2 days & rest.

Then he went on his way.

Then Jesus asked the important man, "Which of those 3 travellers  
was that man's neighbor?"

The important man said, "The one that helped him."

Jesus said,

"Good. You should try to do like that, too."

One time Jesus <sup>was at</sup> the house where Martha & Mary lived.

Martha & Mary were sisters.

Martha had to get supper ready, and she <sup>was very busy.</sup>

It was her job to make supper.

Mary sat and talked to Jesus.

Martha wanted Mary to help, so she went to the living room and asked Jesus,

"Why don't you stop talking, so Mary can come & help with supper?"

Jesus told her, "Martha, be calm. You are worried about supper, but Mary likes to learn. You each like what you do, and that's fine."

One time, just after Jesus had ended a prayer,

one of His friends asked Him

if you should ask Heavenly Father

for something again and again if

He doesn't let you have it right away.

Jesus said yes. He told this story:

A man had a friend on a trip come to visit him.

His friend got there in the middle of the night.

The man found he had no bread for his friend treat.

He went to his neighbor's house, & said,

"May I borrow 3 loaves of bread?"

The neighbor said,

"No. We're all in bed."

There was no one else to get bread from, so

the man kept asking

"May I borrow 3 loaves of bread?"

He asked again & again.

He kept waking up his neighbor.

Finally the neighbor came to the door

with 3 loaves of bread.

The man took them, said "Thank you," and went home & fed his friend.

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Jesus also told a story about an old lady and a man who made her pay extra for his milk.

The lady went to a judge, & asked him to tell the man to not make her pay extra. The judge didn't want to; the man was his friend.

But the lady kept asking; she went to the judge every day. Finally the judge made the man not charge her extra for his milk.

Now, the lady was happy.

Then Jesus said, "So don't give up asking for something you want, in prayer, unless you feel inside yourself that you should stop."

Another time, a man came to Jesus.

He wanted something that his brother had.

Jesus told the people

"Nobody should want what doesn't belong to him."

He told a story:

A rich man had a farm.

One year his farm made him a lot of food.

It was enough to last him 20 years.

He said, "I'll build a lot of big barns to put it all in.

Then I'll not farm anymore.

I'll have all I want to eat, without working.

But that night, he died.

When he found himself in the Spirit World, he was surprised, and said,

"I guess somebody else will get to have all that food now."

Another time, people asked Jesus about some men who had been killed in an accident.

They wanted to know if the men had been good or bad.

Jesus said that it made no difference with those men, but that if the people don't do better and stop being mean, they would die in an accident, themselves.

The next Sabbath day, Jesus went to church and gave a talk. As part of His talk, He called a woman to come up. She was all bent over, & crooked.

Jesus blessed her, putting His hands on her. She straightened up; she was better.

The man who led the meeting wasn't very nice.

He told Jesus that He shouldn't heal people on the Sabbath. Jesus reminded him that it was OK to help your horse out of a mud hole on the Sabbath, so it would be OK to heal a woman, too.

Another time, Jesus told the people:

"Many of you will try to get to Heaven.

Only a few will be able to,

because you aren't as kind & helpful as you should be."

"It will be harder than you think."

On the next Sabbath day, Jesus was having lunch at the house of an important man.

A sick man came there, hoping that

Jesus would heal him.

Jesus asked everyone there if it was alright

to heal him on the Sabbath day.

They were all afraid to answer.

Jesus went ahead and healed the man.

He told all those important people at the lunch that, since it was alright to help your horse out of a mud hole on the Sabbath day, that it would be OK to heal people, too.

No one said anything back to Jesus.

Jesus noticed that each of those important people wanted the best seat they could get. Some just took the best seats, & sat down.

Later, the man giving the lunch would come to them & say, "Go to a worse seat; this other man deserves this seat."

Jesus told them that it would be better to sit in the worse seats, because then you would not be embarrassed that way.

Besides, the man in charge just might come to you and say, "You're better than you think; go to a better seat."

"That's the way it works," Jesus said.

He also told them that it was better to have poor people over for dinner (better than rich people) because the rich people can pay you back, and you're even.

The poor people can't pay you back, so Heavenly Father will, by having you to dinner when you get to the Spirit World.

Then, Jesus told them a story:

a man made a big supper, and sent invitations to many people.

When it was ready, he sent a servant to each of their houses to tell them to come.

At the first house, the man there couldn't come because he wanted to go see a farm that he was going to buy.

At the next house, the man there couldn't come because he wanted to try out his new wagon.

At the next house,

The man there couldn't come because he wanted to be with his girl friend right then.

And so it went, at every house the servant went to. Each man wanted to be excused.

The servant went back to the man who made the supper, & told him all this.

That man was angry, and told his servant,

"Go out in the street and get anyone you find who is poor, or lame, or blind."

The servant did just that.

A lot of people who were poor, or lame, or blind went to the supper.

The servant arrived back at the supper, and saw that there was still room for many more.

The man who made the supper said,

"Go out in the country now, and get more people to come to my supper."

"I want every bit eaten up, so that those men whom I invited first won't get any."

"They promised that they would come."

Each of them could have come, and then afterward done what they said they wanted to do. Each of those things could have waited."

Another time, as Jesus was teaching the people, He said

"Before a man starts to build a house, he counts how much money he has, in order to see if he will have enough to finish it. He would be very embarrassed to have to stop when it was half done because he had no more money. People would make fun of him."

Jesus wanted all His friends to make sure they could give up everything, if they had to, to follow Him. He didn't want anyone to come now if they might change their mind, later.

Another time, while teaching people, Jesus said:

"If a lady has 10 coins, & loses one, won't she take a flashlight & a broom, and sweep & look under every place in her house, until she has found it? When she does find it, she'll call all her friends & say how happy she is to have found her lost coin."

"That's the way Heavenly Father feels when one of us starts being kind & helpful."

Jesus also told them this story:

A man had two sons.

The younger son one day asked  
for his part of their father's money.

The man gave it to him.

After two days, that son took all his money  
and his clothes in a bag,  
and went away to have a good time.

He had a good time every day.

Soon, all his money had been spent.

He couldn't buy any food.

He got very hungry.

He could not find a job to earn money.

He got hungrier.

Finally, he went to a man with a farm,

and said he would be a slave to him.

That man told him that his job would be to

feed the garbage to the pigs.

That man never had enough to feed him.

'He even wanted to eat the corn husks the pigs ate.'

Finally, he thought to himself:

My father isn't this mean to his servants, even.

If I could go back to my father,

maybe he would forgive me for going away

and wasting my money, & let me be

a servant, at least.

So he ran away to his father.

His father saw him coming, a long way down the road.

His father ran down the road to him,

& kissed him & hugged him.

He asked his father to forgive him & let him be

a servant.

But his father took him home,

and got him some nice new clothes.

Then he said, "Let's have a big party for you."

"I thought you had gone away for good,

but you've come back."

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"I'm so very happy."

When the older brother, who had stayed with his father all that time, came by the door, he saw the party, and he was angry.

Their father came out to get him to come in. The son said,

"I always helped you here, father, and you never gave me a party."

Now here you give my brother one when he went away & wasted his money."

Their father said,

"He has spent all he will get, so because I love him, I made the party, when he came back safe.

But you haven't had your money to spend.

When I get old, you'll get all my money now, not just part."

"Yet, I love your brother just as much as before."

Another story Jesus told, was this:

Once there was a rich man.

He had everything anybody could want.

Just outside his house, there was a poor man.

His name was Lazarus.

He was always hungry.

The rich man never even gave him a piece of bread.

Then one day, Lazarus died.

Angels came, & carried him to Heavenly Father's house.

The day after, the rich man died.

The rich man found himself in a very warm place, and there was no water anywhere to drink.

He looked as far as he could see.

He saw Lazarus sitting next to Heavenly Father in their yard, drinking ice water.

He called to Heavenly Father, & said,

"Please send Lazarus over here with just  
a sip of water for me."

But Heavenly Father said,

"Remember, all your life you had all the good things?"

"Lazarus had only bad things."

"Now he has the good, & you have the bad."

"Besides, there is a great canyon between  
you and me, and we can't go to you,  
and you can't come to us."

Now the rich man was sorry that he had not helped  
Lazarus all his life. Very sorry.

Then he said,

"It's terrible to be here. I hope that none  
of my brothers have to come here."

"Please, Heavenly Father, send Lazarus as an  
angel back to them, to tell them what  
has happened to me, and to tell them to  
help all the poor people they can every day,  
and be kind & helpful, so they won't have  
to come here."

But Heavenly Father said,

"No, they have the Bible. In it they can  
read what the prophets have said about  
how important it is to be kind & helpful.  
If they don't do what the Bible says,

I know they won't do it if an angel  
comes and tells them."

"You have to be doing what the Bible  
teaches before you see an angel, or else  
you'll see the angel, and tell yourself  
that he wasn't really there."

Jesus afterward told His apostles to always work hard.  
There would always be more work  
to do in His church.

Jesus and His apostles were on their way to Jerusalem  
when 10 men who were sick with leprosy  
came near.

They called to Jesus to heal them.  
Jesus told them to be healed, and they were.  
all 10 of them.

They were all happy, and ran off to see the Jewish priests  
who would need to see that  
they were all better.

But one of them stopped & came back.

He knelt down in front of Jesus, and thanked Him

Jesus told His apostles,

"Isn't it strange that 10 men were healed,  
and yet only one said thank you?"  
Then He told the one man:

"You can go now. Your faith was strong enough  
to make you better."

Once, Jesus told this story:

Two men went to pray. They were alike, except  
One said, "I am thankful that I am so  
kind & helpful, and that I  
do everything right, no matter what."  
and The other said,

"Heavenly Father, please help me to do better."

Jesus said,

"Heavenly Father liked the second prayer  
better than the first."

Next, some important men came all the way from Jerusalem to see if they could make Jesus say something wrong by asking Him about divorce.

Jesus told them that divorces can happen if either a father or a mother has a hard heart, but that He did not like to see people get divorced.

They should stay married for all time.

Then, about 20 mothers brought their little children to see Jesus.

Some of the apostles told them to get away, because Jesus was busy.

But Jesus said,

"I'm never too busy for children."

It's people like little children that live in Heaven. You have to be like a little child

for them in Heaven to like you."

And He took them on His lap, one by one, and blessed them.

Jesus & his apostles started walking on their way to Jerusalem again.

A young man came up to Jesus & knelt down.

He said "What shall I do to get to Heaven?"

Jesus said, "First, be kind & helpful like the Bible says."

The young man said, "I am kind & helpful."

Jesus then said, "Next, go & sell all your gold & jewelry & diamonds. Then come & help me teach people."

The young man turned sad.

He had a lot of gold & jewelry & diamonds.

He liked them; he did not want to sell them.

He went away. He did not sell any.

Jesus told His apostles that people like that young man have a hard time getting to Heaven when they like money more than Jesus.

The apostles had given up all that they had to be with Jesus & help Him.

Peter asked "What do we get for doing that?" Jesus said, "You twelve will get to judge the twelve tribes of Israel at the last day."

The apostles thought that this was fine.

But Jesus told them this story, too:

A man who owned a farm went to town early in the morning to get people to help him that day on the farm.

He found some men, and told them that if they worked until the sun went down, he would pay them each a penny.

They liked that, and went to his farm and began to work.

Now, 3 hours later, the man went to town again to get more men to work.

He told them, "You're starting late; you won't get a full day's work in, but I need the help. I'll decide how much to pay you, later."

These men liked that, and went to his farm & worked.

Then, the man went back to town 3 more times to get men to work.

Each time, he found some, & each time as they started to work, he had said, "I'll decide what to pay you, later."

The last time he went to get more men, it was only 1 hour before they would stop work.

In other words, some men there had worked 12 hours and others had worked only 1 hour, and some had worked between 1 and 12 hours.

When it came time to stop, the man paid them all, paying each a penny.

The men who had worked 1 hour were happy to get a whole penny for such little work.

The men who had worked 12 hours were surprised that he gave each of them only a penny, too. They said "We worked longer than they did!"

But the man said, "You promised to work all day for a penny. You have your penny; be happy. I did not promise what I would pay these other men. Whatever I decided was right."

After Jesus got to Jerusalem, some of the important people went to Him to try to make Him say wrong things so they could put Him in jail.

As they talked with Jesus, they got angry.

They picked up rocks to hurt Him with.

Jesus asked them,

"I have healed many people; and here you can only think of hurting me."

Then Jesus walked away from them.

He walked past some with the biggest stones, but they put them down as He passed.

They didn't know why; they just suddenly

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feel like putting them down.

Heavenly Father did not want Jesus to die just then.

Jesus went to a small village which was about a day's walk from Jerusalem.

After He had stayed there about a month,

He received a letter from Mary and Martha.

It told Him that their brother Lazarus was sick.

After walking 3 more days, Jesus told His apostles,

"Let's go back to Jerusalem."

The apostles didn't want to get hurt by the important men but Jesus wanted to go anyway.

Jesus said, "The Holy Ghost has told me that Lazarus is dead."

"We must go and make him be alive again."

As they got close to Mary & Martha's house, just outside Jerusalem, Martha ran to meet Jesus. She said,

"If only You had been here, Lazarus would not have died."

"But I know that anything that you ask of Heavenly Father will be done."

Jesus told her,

"Your brother will come alive again."

She said, "

"I know; he will, in the resurrection."

Jesus said, "

"Do you believe that I have power over death?"

She said:

"I know that You are Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world."

Then she ran & got Mary, and they all went to

where Lazarus was buried.

He had been buried in a cave,

wrapped up in white sheets.

There was a big stone in the mouth of the cave to keep it closed up.

Jesus asked some people that had followed them there, to push the stone away from the mouth of the cave.

Martha said she didn't want it moved, because her brother had been dead 4 days now, and it probably stunk inside the cave.

Jesus reminded her that He wanted to do her some good. They took the stone away.

Then Jesus looked upward and prayed, "Heavenly Father, I'm thankful that You always listen to Me."

Then He looked toward the open cave, and said, in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."

Inside the cave, Lazarus' spirit went back into his body.

Then he got up and walked toward the mouth

of the cave.

He couldn't walk very well, though, because of the sheets being wrapped around him.

As Jesus saw Lazarus coming out of the cave,

He told some people close to the cave

to undo the sheets, so Lazarus could walk better.

Then Lazarus hugged Mary & Martha, and they all walked home.

The important people were angered by this miracle.

They wanted now, more than ever, to hurt Jesus.

Jesus went back to His hiding-out house, about a day's walk from Jerusalem.

The important people would have paid money to anyone who would tell them where Jesus was, but no one wanted to.

After a month had passed, Jesus told His apostles,

"We've got to go to Jerusalem now.  
There, I will be crucified."

The apostles were scared.

They did not want Jesus to be crucified.  
But Jesus said,

"Remember, all the prophets said that  
Jesus Christ would be crucified, so it  
has to happen. It will be OK,  
because I have to do it to be the  
Savior of the world. After I'm crucified,  
I will come back to my body & be resurrected."

As they walked along, James & John wondered  
if Jesus would let them sit next to Him  
in Heaven.

Jesus asked them if they "would first suffer like He would."  
They said, "Yes, we want to."

Jesus said, "That's good, but only Heavenly Father can  
say whether you can sit next to Me."

"Now, if you want to try, go be kind and helpful."

Later, as Jesus and all His friends were entering the City  
called Jericho,

two blind men sitting by the road heard

them coming.  
They called out "Jesus Christ, please have mercy on us."

Jesus stopped, & had some of His friends lead them over to him.  
He asked them, "What do you want?"

They said, "We want to be able to see."

He said, "Receive your sight. Your faith is strong."

They looked around, & saw everyone.

They jumped for joy, & became Jesus' friends  
also.

There was a small man named Zacchaeus who lived in Jericho.

Most people didn't like him because he collected money from them for the Romans.

He was too small to see Jesus in the crowd, so he climbed a tree by the road just before Jesus came by.

He was just looking at Jesus passing

when Jesus said, looking up,

"Zacchaeus, hurry down from there.

I want to stay at your house tonight."

Jesus' friends thought that was silly,

because they thought all money collectors were mean.

But, at Zacchaeus' house that night,

Zacchaeus told Jesus he wasn't going to be mean anymore.

He said, "I give half of my money to the poor."

"If I cheated anyone, I give him back

what I cheated him out of, besides 3 more."

Jesus said that that was good,

and that Zacchaeus could be a member of His church now.

As Jesus and His friends walked on the road the next day, they approached the city, Jerusalem.

Some of His friends wanted Him to enter Jerusalem

and make Himself king,

but Jesus did not intend to do that.

Jesus told them a story so that they would know

that He would not make Himself king

this time, but He would come a second time

and be King.

Before entering Jerusalem, they all stayed a day at Bethany, where Jesus had special friends.

Two of them, Mary & Martha, cooked supper, while their brother, Lazarus, talked with Jesus.

When supper was about ready,

Mary got a big bottle of sweet-smelling oil, and poured it on Jesus' head, & then some on His feet.

Then she wiped His feet with her long hair.

She did all this to show how much she admired Jesus.

One of the apostles, who had charge of the money, named Judas, said, "That was silly, Mary."

We could have sold that oil for a lot of money and given the money to the poor people.

But Jesus said,

"Don't get after Mary. She has done right. You'll always have poor people, but I won't be alive next week."

The next morning, they all set out to go to Jerusalem.

Jesus sent 2 of His friends ahead.

He told them they would soon come to where a donkey was, that would be a young donkey next to his mother.

They went ahead & found the donkey, and brought it back to Jesus.

Some other friends put cloths on the donkey for a saddle. Jesus got on and rode.

As they came over the last little hill before getting to Jerusalem's gates, they saw that just about everyone in the city was waiting to see Jesus come in.

They were glad to see Him coming, and some of them put their coats down on the road for Jesus' donkey to walk on.

Others helped by putting large palm tree leaves down, so that it was like a great carpet for Jesus' donkey to walk on.

It made it look like Jesus was a king.

They sang songs calling Him a king.  
It was like a big party, or a parade.

But Jesus was sad.

He was thinking of the terrible things that would happen to the people in Jerusalem for crucifying Him.

He knew that the people around Him would change their minds, and want to crucify Him when He would refuse to fight the soldiers.

When an important man asked Him to have all the people be quiet, He said,  
"If the people did not sing, the stones by the road would start singing for them, because today is a happy day."

The donkey stopped at the temple, and Jesus got off and walked inside. A lot of His friends followed. They made Him feel like a king.

Everyone who wanted could tell that this was Jesus Christ.

Prophets long ago had written in the people's Bible that Jesus Christ would come into Jerusalem as a king, riding on a donkey.

Some men from a far-away country called Greece, came and talked with Jesus.

They liked Jesus, and didn't want Him crucified. But He told them:

"If you never bury a grain of wheat in the ground, it is useless.

If you do bury it, it makes a lot more wheat. So if I am to help people, I must be buried, too."

Then those men left happy.

Jesus felt lonely for His Father, Heavenly Father, then He prayed to not feel so lonely.

Right then, a voice spoke.

His friends said it was Thunders,

but Jesus knew it was Heavenly Father's voice.

He felt stronger after that, and He talked about His death as if it were already passed.

His friends still couldn't see why He would have to die. They wanted Him to keep on being a king.

But Jesus told them that He would soon have to die.

When the sun went down, the people went into houses.

Jesus and His apostles left the temple

and walked out of the city to

stay at Mary & Martha's house, in Bethany.

The next morning, a Monday,  
Jesus and His apostles walked back to Jerusalem.  
Jesus had not had breakfast.

On the way He saw a fig tree

that should have had figs on it.

When He got close, and saw that it really didn't,  
He told the tree,

"No fruit will ever come from you!"

Pretty soon that tree withered and turned all brown.  
And it died.

When they got to the temple,

Jesus saw all the men there that

bought and sold things, and many times cheated  
people.

He stood near the door, and pointed

the way out,

and ordered all those men to get out.

Inside them, they knew He had the right to boss them,  
and they all went out right then.

Then Jesus sat down in the temple.

People who limped, who were lame, came to Him  
and He healed them.

People who were blind found their way to Him,  
and He healed them, too.

Little children were there, too,

and they saw that Jesus must really be the Christ,  
the Savior of the world.

They sang songs about it.

Important men nearby thought the children were wrong.

They asked Jesus to not pay attention.

But He said,

"In the Bible it says that little children  
are the first to praise God."

This made those men angry inside, because they  
did not want to think of Jesus as the Savior.

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When the sun went down,  
Jesus & His apostles went back to Mary & Martha's  
house for the night.

The next morning, a Tuesday,  
Jesus & His apostles again went to Jerusalem.  
On the way, they noticed how dead  
the fig tree looked that  
Jesus had cursed the day before.

Once again in the temple, Jesus taught the people.  
Some important men came to ask a question  
to trick Jesus.

But Jesus' answer tricked those men.  
They were embarrassed, and did not ask  
any more questions.

Jesus told them a story:

A man had 2 sons.

He said to the first "Go and work in the garden".

The son said "No",

but after a while, he changed his mind

and worked in the garden.

The man said to his second son, "Go work in the garden."

The second son said, "Yes, I will,"

but he went off to play, instead.

Then Jesus asked, "Which son loved his father best?"

They all said, "The first."

Jesus said that they ought to be like the first son, then,  
and not the second.

Next, He told another story:

A man had a large farm.

He had to go to the next county to be in charge  
of a large fair there.

He got some men who knew farming

to take care of his farm while he was away.

When harvest time had come,

he sent 3 of his servants back to his farm

to get some of the food that had been grown.

Those men on his farm took his servants,  
and hurt them.

When the man heard about that, he sent more servants—  
some that were stronger, and some that  
were more important, than the first ones.

But those men hurt those servants, too.

So the man, who couldn't go himself yet,  
sent his son.

Those men thought that if they hurt the son so that  
he died, that they could have the farm  
to themselves.

So they hurt the son, that he died.

When the man came back to his farm, he destroyed

Then Jesus said, "That's what is happening here." "I am the Son, and you man will crucify Me."

He also told them this story:

A man made a big party.

When it was ready, he sent his servants

to call for those people he had invited.

None of those people wanted to come.

The man had his servants go again and get them.

This time, they laughed at the servants.

Some went away to play.

Others hit the servants.

When the man heard of this, he went and told

those people, "You'll never get to come to my party."

Then he had his servants go downtown,

and get anyone to come who wanted.

Plenty of people came to the party.

As the man shook hands with each one,

he noticed that one man did not have a party hat,  
that you were supposed to get at the front door.

He asked him why he didn't have one.

The man did not know what to say.

He had snuck in by the back door.

He was thrown out of the party, right then.

After that, some other important men asked Jesus

"Is it good to pay money to the leaders in far off Rome?"

Jesus said, "Show me a penny."

When they held one up, Jesus asked

whose face was on the penny.

They said, "It is Caesar, the leader in far off Rome."

Jesus said, "Then pay Caesar the penny,

and pay God what is God's."

Those important people just could not make Jesus say anything wrong.

Some other important people asked Jesus about seven brothers marrying a girl, one at a time. They wanted to know which one could stay married to her after

<sup>they were all resurrected.</sup>  
Jesus said, If you had studied the Bible better, you would know that only the first brother could stay married then.

Yet other important people tried to trick Jesus. One of them asked a question, and when Jesus answered it, he loved Him, and forgot that he was supposed to trick Him.

Jesus told all His friends,

"These important people can tell you what you should do to be kind and helpful, and you can do what they say. But don't do what they do themselves, because they don't do what they say you should do."

"These important people only want to look important; they don't care about being helpful."

Jesus felt sad because of the destruction he knew would happen to these people, and to Jerusalem.

Next, Jesus went to where people put money, like tithing, into boxes in the temple.

Many people were there to put in money.

Some put in tens of dollars.

Others waved their hands, and

put in hundreds of dollars.

But there was one poor, old lady who snuck up to the box and dropped in just one penny.

Jesus told His apostles,

"Those other people had lots of money, and wanted to look important when they gave a bit of it."

"That lady has done better, even though she gave only a penny.  
That was all of her money."

About sunset, Jesus and His apostles left the temple and went up on the side of a hill and talked about when Jerusalem would be destroyed, and when Jesus would come again a 2<sup>nd</sup> time.

He told them that before that time,

There would be many wars, and mean people, and people who would say that they are Christ, but really aren't.

There would be earthquakes and storms, too.

He said that a lot of people would not be ready when He comes again.

He told this story:

Once there were 10 men, who had a friend who was to get married.

They went downtown to meet him, & go to a party with him.

Each one had a lamp . that burned oil to make light  
All 10 lamps burned brightly.

5 of the men had extra oil for their lamps.

The other 5 didn't.

No one had matches,

so when a messenger came & said their friend would not get there until later, they left their lamps on, and went to sleep.

Some time later, the messenger came back,  
and said, "Get ready, here he comes."

The man found their lamps were nearly out of oil.  
Those who had brought extra oil, poured it into  
their lamps.

Those who didn't, had to run to a store  
and buy more oil.

While they were gone, the friend came by in a hurry,  
and those that were ready went with him  
to the party.

When the others got back from the store,  
they went to where the party was,  
but the door was locked.

They knocked to get in,  
but the friend said,  
"If you weren't ready when I came,  
you're not a friend of mine.  
Go away."

And that's how it will be  
when we wait for Jesus to come again.

Next, Jesus told this story:

A rich man had to go away for a time.

He called 3 of his helpers to him.

He gave one 5 dollars.

He gave another 2 dollars.

He gave the other 1 dollar.

Then he went away.

The helper with 5 dollars used them to make 5 more dollars.

The helper with 2 dollars used his to get 2 other dollars.

The helper with only 1 dollar hid it, like a buried treasure.

The rich man finally came back, and called  
for all the 3 helpers to report to him.

The first one showed how he now had 10 dollars.

The man said, "Good, you can have 20, the  
next time I go."

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The one who had had 2 dollars showed him his 4. O  
The man said, "Good, the next time I go,  
you can have 5."

The one who had 1 dollar brought it to the man.  
The man said, "That's bad. At least you  
could have put it in the bank.  
You won't get anything,  
the next time I go."

Then they left the hillside and walked home.  
On the way, Jesus told them that  
after 2 days He would be crucified.

The next day, at home with Mary, Martha, & Lazarus,  
the apostles asked Jesus where they should go  
to have a special meal  
which was part of the "Passover Feast". O

Jesus told Peter & John to go to Jerusalem.  
He said they would meet a man there  
carrying a pitcher of water.  
They should follow him to the hotel where he worked.  
Then they should ask the hotel-keeper  
where "the Master" should eat the special meal.  
He would then show them to a room upstairs,  
and they could stay there & make  
things ready.

Peter & John went to Jerusalem, & everything happened  
just as Jesus had said it would.  
They made everything ready. O

About the time the sun went down,  
Jesus & the other apostles went to that hotel  
for the special supper.

There was bread to eat, and wine to drink.

Jesus said, as they all sat down,

"I'm glad that it is time to have this special dinner."  
He took the pitcher of wine & blessed the wine.  
Then He passed it around to the apostles.

But He next said, "One of you here will betray me  
to the important people tonight,  
so they can crucify me."

Most of the apostles thought that was awful.

Each asked, "Is it I?"

When Judas Iscariot asked, "Is it I?"

Jesus said, "You said it."

Judas had, the day before, told the important people  
secretly, that he would point Jesus out to them,  
so that soldiers could take Him away.

Jesus was also sad because the apostles

had argued among themselves about

who would sit closest to Jesus at this supper.

He told them, "Don't try to be important."

"Try to help others, not have them help you."

He showed them how:

He was the chief person there, and yet

He got a pan of water & a towel, &

went & washed the dirt from each of the apostles  
feet.

Peter felt funny, like he ought to wash Jesus' feet instead,  
but Jesus told him that it was an

important ceremony, and that when

He, as leader, washed Peter's feet,

Peter could get to Heaven.

Peter liked that then, and said,

"Please do my arms, too, so I'll really get there."

But Jesus said the ceremony was for the feet only..

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Jesus told them,

"You see, the Leader isn't any more important than those that follow him; the Leader has to be just as helpful as anyone else."

Next Jesus blessed some bread and gave each apostle a piece of it.

He said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

Then He took a cup of wine and blessed it, and had each apostle drink some.

He said, "This is to remember that I bled for you."

All the apostles hadn't heard Jesus tell Judas that He knew he was the one who would betray Him.

Peter asked John, who was nearest Jesus, to ask Him which one of them would betray Jesus.

When John whispered that question to Jesus, He said,

"I'll dip a piece of bread in some wine. Watch who I give it to. He is the one."

So Jesus did it, and

John saw Him give it to Judas, saying

"Go do what you must, quickly."

Judas left the supper right after that.

He went downstairs, out into the dark night.

Peter was worried that Jesus would get hurt now.

He told Him, "I'll follow you anywhere."

Jesus knew Peter better than Peter knew himself.

He told Peter, "That's good, but you won't. You're still weak & afraid."

Q3

Peter said, "I'm not afraid of anything."

Jesus told him, "But you are. Before you hear  
the rooster crow, tonight yet,  
you will tell 3 people that  
you never knew me."

Next Jesus told all the apostles,

"There are many fine houses in Heaven.  
I'll go there soon, and set apart a  
house for each of you. Then we can live together."

Next He told them to be sure to end all their  
prayers, by saying,  
"in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen."

He promised them that when He was gone,  
He would send the Holy Ghost to  
tell them in their hearts what to do.

He told the apostles that He loved them very much.

He also prayed to Heavenly Father,  
asking that His apostles might  
always be led to think the thoughts  
Heavenly Father would want them to.

Then, they sang a song, like we do in church.  
They went downstairs, and out into the night.

They went out the city gates (which were open)  
and came to a garden named Gethsemane.

Jesus told 8 of the apostles to sit near the  
entrance to the garden, and pray.

Jesus, with Peter, James, & John, went further into the garden.

He wanted to go pray alone.

He felt very heavy and sad.

He told Peter, James, & John to stop and wait for Him.

He wanted them to pray, too.

Jesus went further, feeling very sad.

Suddenly He knelt on His hands and knees,

and asked, "Father, I wish I didn't have to suffer so."

But I'll do it if You still want."

After praying for a while,

Jesus went back to the 3 apostles.

He found them all asleep.

He woke them up.

He told them to try again to pray, & stay awake.

He went back to where He had been praying.

Again, He wished that He didn't have to suffer so much.

When He returned to the 3 apostles again,

they were asleep.

Jesus woke them up, and went back to His place.

This time, an angel came to help Him.

Even so, His suffering was so bad  
that He sweat hard.

He didn't sweat water this time.

It was great drops of blood.

A little while later it was over.

Jesus went to the 3 apostles.

They were asleep again.

He let them sleep a little longer. It was still night.

He knew that Judas would soon come & betray Him.

He woke them up, and together, they went to the other 8 apostles.

There they waited for Judas to bring the soldiers to take Jesus away.

While Jesus had been praying,

Judas had gone to some important people saying that Jesus could be taken that night. Together, they got some soldiers to go with them to find Jesus.

Judas told them secretly that the one he kissed would be Jesus.

When Judas & his friends got to the garden where

Jesus & His friends were waiting, Judas walked over to Jesus & said,

"Hello, Master," and kissed Him.

Jesus asked him, "Do you betray Me with a kiss?" "Go ahead and tell them who I am."

But Judas did not answer.

None of the soldiers, nor none of the important men moved at all.

Jesus asked them, "Who did you come for?"

They said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

He said, "I am He; take me," and He put out his hands quietly and stepped forward so they could lead Him away.

But they stepped backwards. Some fell down.

They had swords and spears & shields,

but they were all afraid.

Jesus once again told them that He was ready to be taken away, but He wanted them to not put any of His friends, the apostles, in jail.

This was fine, and some of the soldiers took Jesus by the arms.

Some of the apostles asked,

"Should we fight them off, Jesus?"

But before He could answer,

Peter drew his sword and slashed

at an important person close by.

That man was Malchus.

Peter's sword cut his ear off.

Jesus told the soldiers, "Let me go for a minette."

He stooped to the ground, got Malchus' ear,  
and put it back on Malchus, &  
healed it.

Then He told Peter,

"Don't fight. People who fight get hurt, themselves."

"Don't you think Heavenly Father could  
right now send Me 10,000 angels  
to save Me, if He wanted to?"

But He can't, because I have to be  
crucified."

He told the important men,

"You had chances to take me before,  
but only now will Heavenly Father let you."

Some soldiers took Jesus by the arms again.

Others tried to take the apostles, too,  
but the apostles ran away.

They tied Jesus' hands together, & led Him  
to the great house of an important man  
named Caiphas.

Caiphas had many of his friends there.

When Jesus was brought in, he began asking Him questions

Jesus answered them nicely, but wisely,

so that they couldn't say He had said

anything that they could call "lied."

One time, a soldier hit Jesus,  
but He never even yelled at the soldier.

Also, they paid people to come and tell things that  
Jesus had done, which the important men  
thought were "bad" things.

But the people who came  
couldn't agree on what to say,  
and you had to have at least 2 people agree  
to hold a court.

At last 2 did agree that Jesus had said  
he would build a new temple,  
but one used different words than the other.

So Caiphas asked Jesus if He was the Christ.  
(Caiphas didn't think He was.)

Jesus said, "You guessed right."  
Caiphas was sure that Jesus wasn't,  
and he tore his robe in anger,  
saying, "He's got to be killed; He thinks He's God."

All of Caiphas' friends cheered.  
The soldiers spit on Jesus, & hit him from behind,  
saying, "If you're God, you ought to know  
who hit you; tell us."

Jesus didn't say anything to them.

All the while, the chief apostle, Peter, had been  
watching with apostle John, in a corner  
of Caiphas' house.

Just after he had got there, a lady asked him,  
"Weren't you one of Jesus' friends?"

Peter had said, "No", and had gone out on the porch.

There, another lady said, "I think you went around with Jesus."  
Peter said, "I do not know Jesus."

Peter went inside by the fire to keep warm. There, a friend of Malchus, whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Hey, you were at the garden last night with Jesus!"

But Peter, over & over again, said  
"I do not know Jesus."

Just then, Peter heard a rooster crow.

He remembered that Jesus had said

"I know you will deny me 3 times before you hear the rooster crow."

He looked toward Jesus, by the soldiers.

Jesus was looking at him, as if to say "Remember?"

Peter got up & left Caiphas' house in a hurry.

He just got outside when he started crying.

He was sorry he was so weak.

As he cried, he decided to do better the next time.

Just after the sun came up, Caiphas & his friends took Jesus over to the house where the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, was staying.

He met them at the door, and Caiphas said,

"This Jesus must die. We need your permission."

Pilate asked, "What has He done?"

Caiphas & his friends didn't say anything about Jesus saying that He was God.

The Romans didn't care about that.

So they made up something to say to Pilate.

They said "He wants to be king; in your place."

So Pilate decided to hold a court.

He went in his house to a judgement place, & had Jesus brought there.

A lot of people went in, too.

The apostle John was among them.

Pilate asked Jesus if He was the King of the Jews.

Jesus asked him back,

"Do you mean an earthly king or a spiritual king?"

Pilate said, "An earthly king."

Jesus said, "No, I am a spiritual king of everyone that knows the truth."

Pilate was amazed.

He told Caiaphas & his friends, "He has done no wrong." "You can't kill him."

Caiaphas & his friends said,

"But He's even made trouble in Galilee."

Pilate said, "Then take Him to king Herod, from Galilee."

Herod's house was nearby.

Herod was happy to get to judge Jesus.

He asked Him questions for 10 minutes.

Jesus never answered him.

Caiaphas & his friends told Herod all that they thought Jesus had done wrong.

But Jesus never said a word.

After 10 more minutes, Herod & the soldiers started making fun of Jesus.

They hit Him; they hurt Him; they made Him bleed.

They put a robe on Him,

made fun, calling out, "Hey, king."

Then Herod had Jesus taken back to Pilate.

Pilate told Caiaphas & his friends,

"You can't kill Jesus. He's a good man."

But, when they still insisted, Pilate had an idea.

One prisoner was always let go out of jail at this, the Passover feast time.

Pilate showed everyone a murderer, a bad man called Barabbas, who had been kept in jail for trying to be king. He also showed them Jesus.

He asked them,

"I can let one prisoner go free at Passover time, now."

"Which one shall it be? Barabbas, or Jesus?"

The important men there whispered to everyone, "Say Barabbas!"

So they said, "Barabbas."

Pilate was surprised, & asked,

"What should I do with Jesus, then?"

Everyone yelled, "Let Him be crucified."

Pilate said, "But why?"

Everyone yelled, "Crucify Him."

They did not say why; they were getting angry.

Pilate's wife came & told him that she had had a dream the night before about Jesus, and how terrible it would be with storms & lightning when He was crucified.

Pilate didn't want Jesus crucified.

He tried to talk the people into letting Jesus go.

Then, when he couldn't,

he got some water & washed his hands

to show that he wasn't the one who decided to crucify Jesus.

The people said,

"Yes. We've decided. We want Him crucified."

So Barabbas was set free, &

Jesus was taken to be scourged.

The soldiers were mean.

They made Jesus bleed in many places.

Then they put a robe on Him, & made a crown of thorns.

That crown made His head bleed, too.

Then they made fun of Him saying, "Hey, king!"

Pilate felt sorry for Jesus.

He showed Him to the people, so they would feel sorry, too.

But they felt mean, & said,

"When will He be crucified?"

So Pilate had to tell the soldiers to crucify Him.

The important men told Pilate

"He said He was the Son of God, and

no one can be that, so He has to die."

Pilate wondered if somebody could be the Son of God.

He asked Jesus if He was.

Jesus told him, "You can crucify Me

only because My Father in Heaven lets you."

Again Pilate told the people that Jesus ought to be let go.

The people said, "We'll tell your boss bad things about you, unless you crucify Jesus."

He showed Jesus to them again.

Jesus was still bleeding.

He said, "Here is your king, you people."

They answered, "You & your boss are our king, not Jesus."

And so the soldiers led Jesus away to be crucified.

Right then, Judas came running to the important men.

He wanted to give them back the money they had paid him to betray Jesus to them. He now knew that he should not have betrayed Jesus. He told those men to not let Jesus be crucified.

Those important men only said,

"We don't want you anymore." "Go away." Judas felt terrible inside.

He ran to the temple & threw the money on the floor. He didn't want it; it reminded him of how he had helped get Jesus hurt.

Then, he went & found a place just outside the city, & hung himself there, & died.

The important men found the money on the temple floor.

With it, they bought a field to use as a graveyard.

They found Judas hanging there,

& they took his dead body down, & buried it there.

The soldiers had Jesus carry the wooden cross as they began to walk from Pilate's house.

But Jesus couldn't walk as fast as the soldiers wanted when He was carrying His cross, so they caught the first stranger they saw on the road, & made him carry it for Jesus.

A little further on, Jesus saw some women by the side of the road. They were crying for Him.

He told them,

"Don't cry for Me. Cry for yourselves & your children. Terrible things will happen to the people here after many years, because they did not like Me."

After passing through the city gates, Jesus & the soldiers went up a small hill to a place called Calvary.

There, they stopped.

The soldiers were ready to give Jesus a drink of medicine so He wouldn't feel so much pain.

Jesus did not take the medicine.

The soldiers then nailed Jesus' hands & feet to the cross.

It hurt Jesus, but all He said was,

"Father in Heaven, forgive them, because they don't realize what they are doing."

They nailed a sign on the cross, too, which said,

"Here is the King of the Jews."

The important men of Jerusalem wanted that sign taken down, but no one would allow that.

Everyone that passed by, it seemed, stopped & said,

"Jesus, if You're so important,"

why aren't there angels here now

to get you off the cross, & down here?"

Two robbers were also crucified on crosses next to Jesus.

One said,

"If you are Christ, get us down from here."

The other was more polite, although he was hurting just as much.  
He said to the other robber:

"That was not nice to say."

We deserve to be crucified because we stole things.  
Jesus doesn't deserve it; He never did anything bad."

Then he asked Jesus,

"Please remember me when You get to Heaven."

Jesus kindly told him,

"Don't worry. I'll meet you in the Spirit World later today."

After a while, the apostle John, with Jesus' mother, Mary, and some other women, came close to the cross.

Jesus saw them, and told John to take good care of His mother, Mary, and He told Mary to stay with John from now on.

Then they went away.

After Jesus had been on the cross more than 2 hours, a darkness covered the sun and everything looked as though it were night, even though it was only lunch time.

For 3 more hours Jesus suffered.

About then, He said,

"Father in Heaven, why have you left me alone?"

He felt all alone for a moment, but just for a moment.

After a few minutes, He said, "I'm thirsty."

Someone put a wet sponge on a stick & wet His lips with it.

Next, Jesus said, "It is finished," because He could feel inside Himself that Heavenly Father was satisfied with His suffering and sacrifice.

So then He said,

"Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit," and He bowed His head, and died.

Right then, there was a big earthquake.

Everything shook for miles around.

The soldiers who had crucified Jesus watched Him.

They were amazed that anyone could die so soon.

Usually people hung on the cross for days before dying.

The soldiers' leader said,

"Boy, He surely must be the Son of God."

The important men were not happy yet.

They wanted Jesus & the 2 robbers to be dead and buried before sunset.

They got permission to have the soldiers

make sure the three were dead

by breaking their legs.

But when the soldiers got to Jesus,

They saw that He was already dead,

and so they didn't break His legs.

Instead, they hurt His side with a spear,

to make sure he was dead.

A lot of blood and water came from Jesus' side.

There was a big hole left there.

Then, they took Jesus from the cross,

and gave His body to some of His friends.

Two of them were called Joseph, and Nicodemus.

They wrapped the body in nice white cloth and put perfume on it.

Then they took it to a large cave that Joseph owned. O

They laid it on a bed in the cave.

Then they closed the front of the cave,

and rolled a big stone there, also,

so no one would bother it.

Then it was night.

The next day, the important men got permission  
to have some soldiers guard the cave, too.

They didn't want anyone to take Jesus' body

out of the cave and say that He was resurrected  
and fool everybody.

But Jesus, Himself, in the spirit, was in the Spirit World.

He was busy ordaining many spirits to be missionaries.

There were many, many spirits there who had not  
heard about Jesus, or being kind & helpful.

When they had been alive on the earth,

no missionaries had come to see them.

So Jesus ordained spirit missionaries to  
talk to them now.

The next day was Sunday.

While it was still dark, before anyone got up,  
there was an earthquake at the cave where  
Jesus' body was.

An angel came and rolled away the big stone  
from the cave, and sat on the stone.

The soldiers who were guarding the cave fell down  
and, when they looked up and saw the angel,  
they were afraid, and ran away.

When it did get light in the morning,  
some women friends of Jesus went to the cave.  
They wanted to put more perfume on His body.

They wondered who they would be able to find  
to roll the big stone away from the door.

When they came near the cave, they all saw  
the angel sitting on the large stone.  
They saw that the cave was open.

At first, they were afraid of the angel,  
but he told them,

"Don't be afraid. I know you want Jesus.  
He is not here. He is risen, like He said.  
You can look in the cave and see it is empty.  
Then hurry and tell the apostles about it.  
Tell them, too, that Jesus will meet them  
in Galilee. There, you can all see Him."

One of the ladies ran fastest, and found the apostles,  
Peter and John, & told them.

Peter & John ran to the cave.

John ran faster. He got there first.

He saw in the cave, that the white cloths  
that had been wrapped around Jesus' body  
were all neatly folded at the end of  
the bed where Jesus' body had been.

Peter ran past John, into the cave.

John followed, and together they stood and wondered  
about the empty bed, & the white cloths.

The lady, Mary, was slower than the apostles.

She got there after they were in the cave.

She stood outside & watched.

When Peter & John left, she stayed.

She began to cry.

Then she looked into the cave again.

This time she saw 2 angels.

They looked out and asked, "Why are you crying?"  
She said, "Because someone has

taken away my friend, Jesus,"  
and she cried some more.

She turned away from the cave.

Just then, someone by the side of the cave asked her,  
"Why are you crying?"

She thought it was the gardener.

She said, "not looking up,

If you have taken my friend away,  
just tell me where, and I'll  
go get Him."

But then He said, "Mary, my friend."

Right then Mary knew that voice. It was Jesus.  
She rushed to hug Him.

Jesus told her not to even touch Him, just then.

He needed to go visit His Father in Heaven  
before anyone could touch Him.

So Mary was excited, & ran off to tell the apostles  
that Jesus was alive, not dead.

Everyone had thought that you stayed dead  
after being crucified.

They had forgotten that Jesus

was supposed to only stay dead 3 days.

Now they began to realize that

taking His body back and coming alive again  
was part of what Jesus was supposed to do.

Later that day, other women friends of Jesus went & saw the open cave.

They also saw 2 angels in the cave.

Then, as they walked home, Jesus met them, and they each got to touch Him.

The soldiers who had been guarding the cave told the important men how the large stone had been rolled away, & how an angel had come & sat on it.

They said that Jesus' body was no longer in the cave.

The important men knew that this meant that Jesus was resurrected,

but they didn't want to believe it.

They didn't want anybody else to believe it, either.

They gave each soldier a lot of money, & told them,

"If anyone asks you,

tell them that you fell asleep,

& Jesus' friends came & took

Him away before you woke up."

The soldiers liked the money.

They told that lie to anyone who asked them what had happened.

That afternoon, two men who had known Jesus went walking on a road.

They talked about Jesus, and wondered if what the women had said was right — that Jesus was alive again.

Someone else joined them in their walk.

They told Him how worried they were about Jesus. He listened, but then began to explain to them all that the Bible said about Jesus' needing to be crucified and how He would come alive again.

When they ended their walk, they invited Him to come for supper.

When supper started, He took some bread and blessed it.

Those 2 men knew that this Man was Jesus, when they saw Him do that.

But right then, Jesus vanished, out of sight.

They were excited, and didn't eat any supper.

They went & told everyone that they had been with Jesus that day.

They went to Jerusalem, to a house where the apostles were staying.

When they told the apostles, the apostles said "We know. Jesus has appeared to Peter today."

While they were talking, Jesus appeared in the middle of the room.

Some who were there, were scared, even though they loved Him very much.

Jesus told all of them to come and touch Him so they could know that He was real.

Everyone did.

They felt where the nails had gone through His hands & His feet.

They were so happy, that they cried.

Jesus wanted to show how real He was, in another way. He said, "Let Me have some fish & bread to eat."

They found some, and Jesus ate it while everyone watched. Then Jesus said, goodbye, and disappeared.

One apostle, Thomas, wasn't there that night. When the others told him the next day, he said,

"I can't believe it. I've got to touch Jesus myself, before I will believe."

The next Sunday night — a week later — the apostles & friends had a sacrament meeting. Thomas was there this time.

Jesus appeared in the middle of the room. Besides doing other things, He asked Thomas to come and touch Him, like he had wanted. Thomas felt Him, and His hands & feet. Thomas said, "My Savior."

Jesus told him, "It is good that you believe now." "I will bless anyone who believes without having to see Me first."

A few weeks afterward, the apostles all went to Galilee, where the resurrected Jesus said He would meet them.

After they got there, they waited for Jesus to come, but nothing happened.

One afternoon, the apostle Peter was tired of waiting. All the apostles got into an old boat of Peter's and went fishing.

They used nets. They hoped to catch a lot of fish all at once.

But all that night, even though the fish were supposed to be there, they caught none.

When the sun came up in the morning, someone on the shore of the lake yelled to ask if they had any fish.

"No", they said.

The man then said, "Try using your nets on the right side of the boat."

Peter thought it was silly to try, because they had been doing that all night, and had caught no fish.

But they did it, anyway.

Fish went into the net from all over.

The apostles were surprised.

Then the apostle John remembered.

He said to Peter, "That man is Jesus."

Peter jumped from the boat & swam to Jesus.

The other apostles came in a rowboat, with the fishes.

Jesus had a fire ready, and bread all made.

Together, they cooked some of the fish, & had breakfast.

Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love Me, or the fish?"

Peter said, "You know I love You."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Again Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love Me?"

He asked him a second & a third time.

Each time, Peter said, "You know I love You."

Each time, Jesus said again, "Feed my Sheep."

Then Jesus told Peter how he would die when he got old.

He would be crucified.

Jesus also told Peter that John would not die,

no, not until Jesus would come

again, a second time  
in our day.

For 6 weeks, Jesus kept meeting and visiting the apostles & their friends.

He told them many things about how to run His church.

He told them to be good missionaries, and talk to people all over the world.

He told them that the Holy Ghost would come to them a week or so after He left.

The apostles wanted Him to stay.

But Jesus said He had to go.

Together, they walked out of Jerusalem,

toward where Mary, Martha, & Lazarus lived.

When they were about there,

He blessed everyone, like in a prayer.

As He talked, He rose up off the ground.

He went higher & higher.

He went into a cloud, and disappeared.

Everyone kept looking up at where Jesus had been.

2 angels appeared down near the apostles.

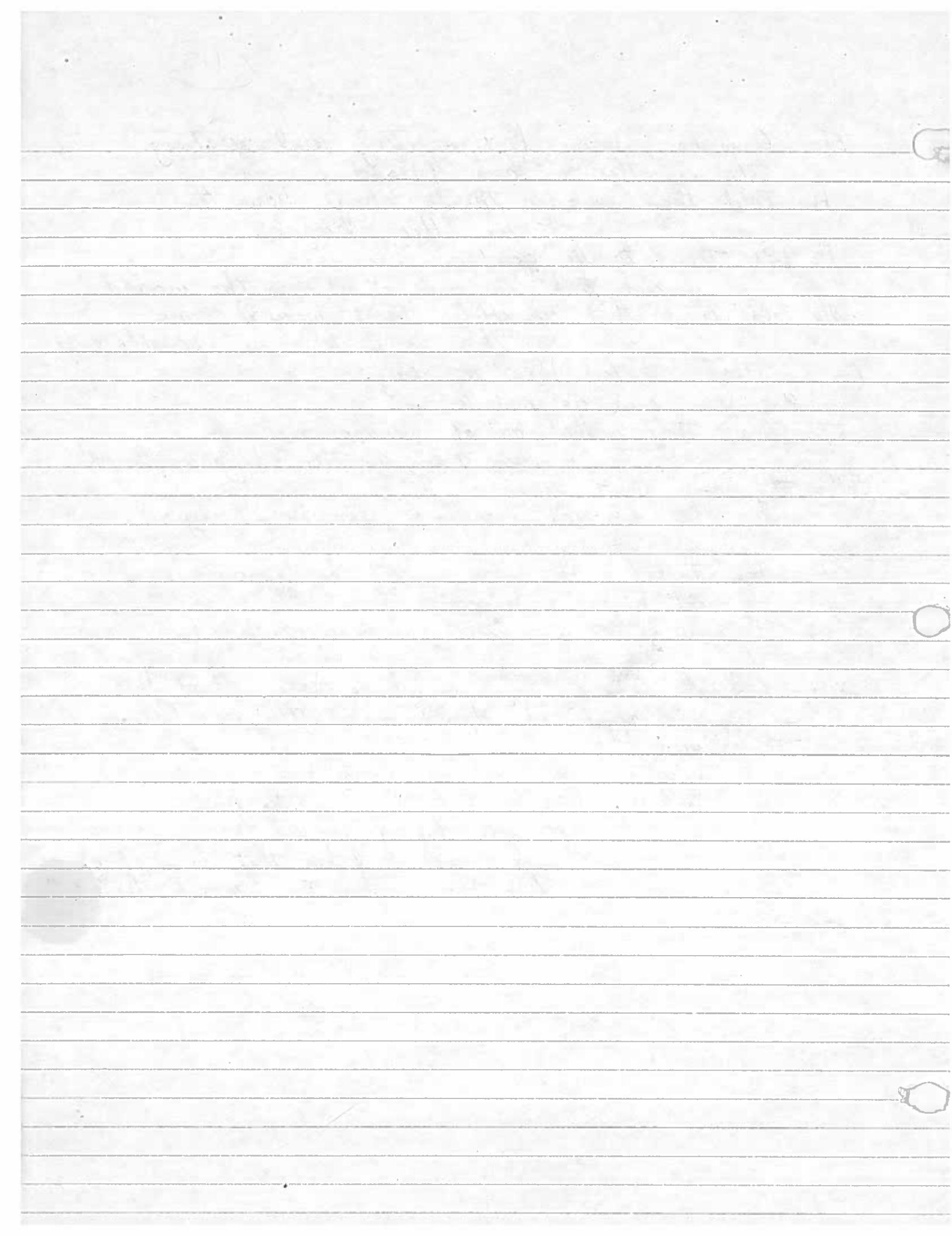
They said,

"Why are you looking up?

Do you know that Jesus, who has

left you by going up,

will come down from that very place  
when He comes the second time?"



# Life of Christ on Earth

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92 stories

(1)

Zacharias & Elizabeth were a father & mother who had never had children.

Zacharias was a priest. He often prayed for a baby.

One day, it was his turn to work in the temple. He was happy that he finally got a turn.

His job was to go near the center of the temple, and offer a sacrifice, and burn it.

As he began to do this, an angel came to him, and stood by the altar in front of him.

Angels hadn't appeared in the temple for a long time, so Zacharias knew something important was about to happen.

He was scared.

The angel told him that his wife, Elizabeth, would have a baby, after all.

The angel said it would be a baby boy, and that he would have to be named John.

No other name would do.

He also said to make sure the boy drank no wine, and he would grow up to be a great man.

Zacharias wondered if this could all be true.

He asked the angel to prove it.

The angel told Zacharias that he should have believed him, because he was the angel Gabriel.

Then, the angel Gabriel made Zacharias so that he could not talk, because he had not believed.

The angel Gabriel said he would be able to talk again, only after the baby was born, & was named.

Then, the angel left.

The people outside the temple waited & waited to see  
the smoke from the burning of the sacrifice.

No smoke came.

After a while, Zacharias came out of the temple,  
and the people asked him why he had not  
come sooner.

Zacharias could not tell them by talking,  
so he made signs with his hands,  
& wrote notes, & told them  
about the angel, & what he had said.

Then they all went home, some of them wondering.

Zacharias happily told his wife, Elizabeth, by  
writing her notes, too.

Pretty soon, Elizabeth could feel the baby inside her,  
growing.

About this time, the same angel, Gabriel, went to  
a young lady who soon would get  
married to a young man named Joseph.

She was Elizabeth's cousin.

Her name was Mary.

The angel Gabriel told Mary that it was going to be  
her privilege to be the earthly mother of Jesus Christ.

He told her how special it would be to her  
to be His mother.

He told her that her cousin, Elizabeth, was to soon  
have a baby.

That baby would grow up,

and would baptize people,  
helping them to be ready to learn  
from Jesus Christ.

Then the angel went away.

So the next day, Mary started to walk to the land of Judea, where her cousin lived. After 3 or 4 days of walking, she got there.

When she first spoke to Elisabeth, the baby in Elisabeth's womb kicked for joy, because he heard Mary's voice, too. He knew that she would be the earthly mother of Jesus Christ.

Elisabeth was just as happy, too, to have Mary visit. Mary stayed, and visited, for 3 months.

At that time, Elisabeth gave birth to her baby boy.

A week later, they held a party, where they would name him. All their friends that were there, wanted the baby named Zacharias, like his father, or Abijah, like one of his great grandfathers.

But Zacharias was upset with this.

He remembered that the angel had said the baby should be called, John.

He wrote notes & showed them to everyone.

They read, "His name has to be John." Elisabeth, his wife, agreed.

So they named the baby, John.

Just as soon as that happened, Zacharias said something.

He could talk now,

just like the angel had promised.

He told everybody all over again, about the angel, and how good Heavenly Father was to send someone to baptize people, so they would be ready to learn from Jesus Christ.

(1)

Mary went back home.

When she told her boy-friend, Joseph, that she was to have a baby, he was surprised.

People weren't supposed to have babies before they were married.

But one night an angel came to Joseph in a dream, and told him that the Baby was a special one, with Heavenly Father as His Father.

S. Joseph was no longer worried.

He married Mary, just as they had planned.

That spring, the Roman governors called upon everyone to pay a Tax.

Joseph & Mary would have to travel a long ways to pay their tax.

They lived in Nazareth, & had to go to Judea.

They took a donkey for Mary to ride on part of the time.

It took them 4 or 5 days to get to the city of Bethlehem, in Judea.

A lot of people had come to that same small town to pay their taxes, too.

Joseph & Mary had no friends to stay with there,

so they went to places like motels or hotels

to get a place to sleep at night.

But at each place, the rooms & beds were already taken.

The only other place they could sleep

would be in a stable at one of the hotels.

When it got late in the evening,

Joseph & Mary asked to stay in the stable at one of the hotels.

They wouldn't have beds, or a door to shut, but they would be warm, & the hay would be soft to lay on.

(5)

The next day, Joseph & Mary paid ~~their~~ tax  
to the Roman governor in the city.

Mary thought that the Baby would be born soon.

One night, Mary gave birth to the Baby there in the stable.

Mary was happy; so was Joseph.

The Baby was a happy baby.

They wrapped Him in blankets, & made a little bed  
for him in the hay.

At the same time, angels visited some shepherds  
who were tending sheep in the hills nearby.

One angel said,

"Be happy tonight; because now Jesus Christ  
is born."

"You can find him in a stable, in a bed of hay."

Then more angels came, & they all sang:

"Glory to God, and let there be peace on earth."

The shepherds were indeed happy.

They left their sheep, & went to the town,

and found the stable where the Baby Jesus was.

They went in and looked for a while at the Baby Jesus.

They stood very still, trying to be reverent to Him.

Some of them knelt down,

and bowed their heads to Him.

Then they went back to their sheep in the hills.

They told everyone they saw how happy

they were that Jesus Christ was born.

They also sang songs as they walked along.

Mary, back at the stable with Jesus,

wondered how the shepherds could tell so easily

that this Baby was Jesus Christ, and why

they stood so still when looking at Him.

After the Baby Jesus was 40 days old,  
 Mary & Joseph took him to the temple  
 when they offered a sacrifice.

While in the temple, a prophet named Simeon came up to them,  
 and asked to see the Baby.

He knew at once that it was Jesus Christ,  
 and he was very happy.

Heavenly Father had promised him he would see the Baby Jesus  
 before he died.

He was very old.

He asked to hold the Baby.

He held the Baby high, and said,

"Thank you, Heavenly Father, for letting me see the Baby Jesus.

Now I won't worry if I die."

Then the prophet Simeon told Mary & Joseph  
 that the Baby Jesus had a great mission to do later,  
 and that Mary would feel hurt before it ended.

After the prophet Simeon left,

a lady prophet named Anna caught sight of the Baby.  
 She stopped people who passed by,  
 and pointed towards the Baby Jesus, saying,  
 "That Baby is the Son of God."

At about this time, a new star appeared.

It was brighter than any other star.

Some wise men came to Jerusalem about this time,  
 from far away lands, seeking the Baby Jesus.  
 They had followed the new, bright star in the east.  
 But Joseph & Mary still stayed in Bethlehem, not in Jerusalem,  
 and the Baby Jesus with them.  
 So the wise men had to ask people where to go,  
 since they did not know He was nearby,  
 in Bethlehem.  
 They decided to ask the king in Jerusalem, Herod.  
 Herod did not know anything about the Baby Jesus.  
 He felt angry when the wise men said  
 that Jesus was to be the King of the Jews.  
 Herod wanted to stay king over the Jews.

He asked the priests & scribes of the Jews, and  
 ordered them to tell him where Jesus was to be born.  
 "They told him, "In Bethlehem."  
 "The prophets in our Bible say he will be King of the Jews."

This only made Herod angrier.

He sent the priests & scribes away.

He told the wise men to try finding the Baby Jesus.  
 He asked them to come back & tell him where He was,  
 so he could go see Him, too.

Really, Herod wanted to hurt the Baby Jesus, instead.

The wise men went to Bethlehem, and asked there.

Soon they found Joseph & Mary, & the Baby Jesus.

They all knelt down in front of the Baby Jesus.

They were reverent to him.

They gave him gifts that they brought.

The wise men stayed a short time longer.

When they were sleeping at night,

they dreamed that Heavenly Father sent an angel who told them not to tell Herod where the Baby Jesus was.

So when they left the next morning, they didn't go back to see Herod,

but started walking & riding

~~back to their countries~~

One night after the wise men had gone,

an angel came to Joseph, & told him:

"Take your wife, Mary, & the Baby Jesus, and go live in Egypt for a while, because Herod is about to find the Baby Jesus, to hurt Him."

So Joseph, Mary, & the Baby Jesus left Bethlehem secretly, and went to Egypt to live.

Soon after they had gone, Herod's soldiers marched to Bethlehem.

They had no idea about which house the

Baby Jesus was supposed to be in,

so they asked at every house, if there was a baby boy

and the mother cried.

If there was, they hurt him until he died.

Then they went to the next house.

They asked if there were any baby boys there.

If there were, they hurt them too, so that they died.

and the mothers cried.

This way, Herod hoped to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem,

so that he could be sure that

there would be no Baby Jesus to become

the King of the Jews in his place.

But, thanks to Heavenly Father's sending an angel to warn Joseph, the Baby Jesus was safe in Egypt.

Very soon, though, Herod died, and was dead, too.

Heavenly Father sent an angel to Joseph in Egypt, who told him

"It's all right to go back to the land of Israel now. Herod is dead."

So the family travelled back to Judaea.

But they found Herod's son in Herod's place as king.

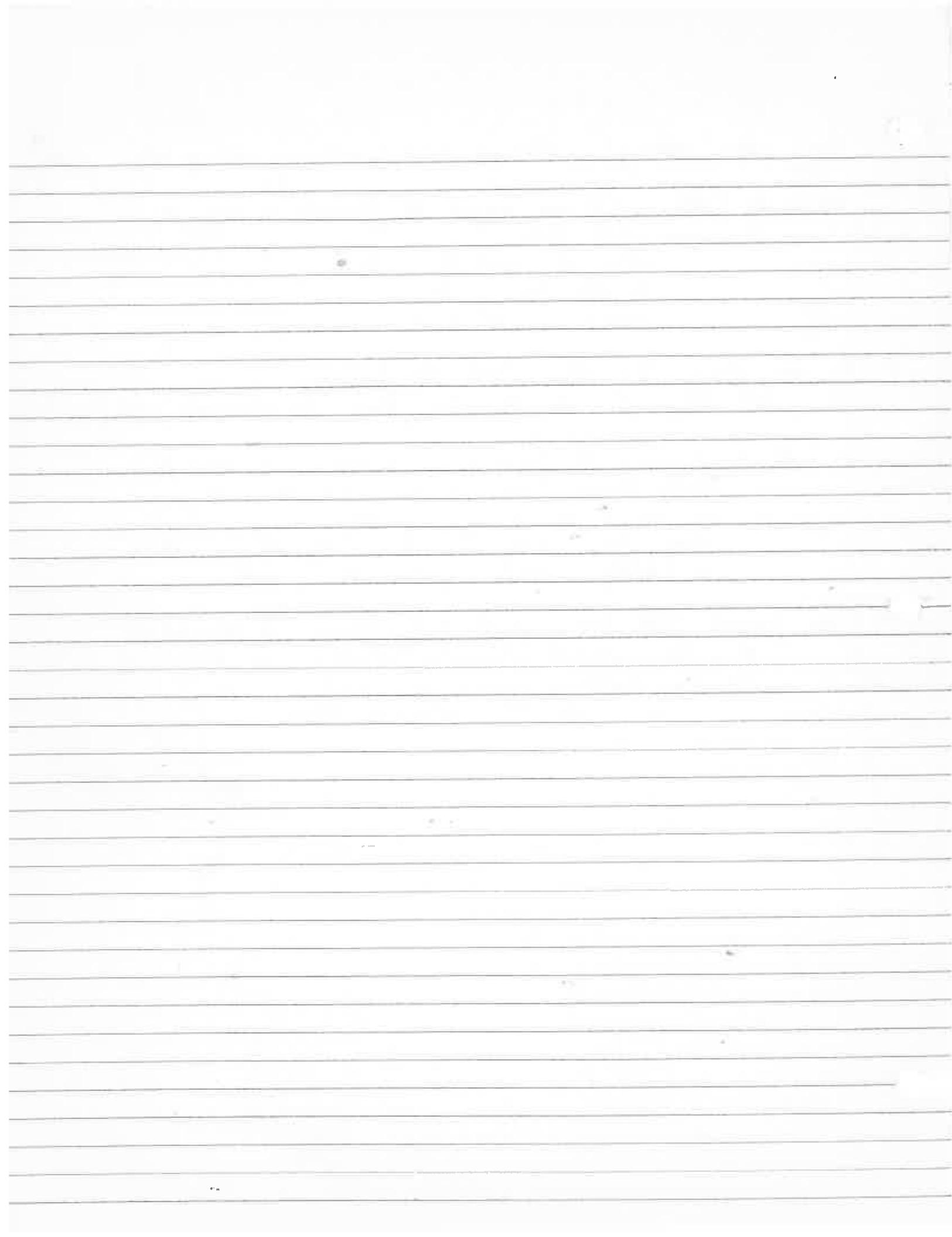
An angel came to Joseph in a dream, & told him that Herod's son would want to hurt Jesus if he knew him, so they should not stay there, but travel on to Nazareth, a hilly country of Palestine.

So Joseph took Mary & the Baby Jesus to Nazareth.

There they found Herod's brother was king in Nazareth.

Herod's brother would not bother Jesus,

so they stayed there.



Jesus went to school and learned to read.

At school, he also learned about Heavenly Father, with the other boys.

He learned about Heavenly Father at church, too.

He learned how to be kind and helpful.

He was never mean.

At home, Jesus learned how to be a carpenter,

and how to make things out of wood.

His step-father, Joseph, taught him.

Joseph and Mary were proud of Jesus.

When Jesus had turned 12 years old, they took him on a long trip to a big city called Jerusalem.

There, they would be part of a big party called "The Feast of the Passover".

It would last for seven days.

They would eat special food, and go to church at the temple, there.

There would be a family night, too, with special things to do.

Jesus and his family walked to Jerusalem with a lot of other people who were going there, too.

With so many people walking together,

the robbers hid behind the rocks

at the side of the road

were afraid to take Jesus' parents' money.

So Jesus' parents made plans with the people

to walk back home to Galilee with them after the big party was over.

They all got to Jerusalem in time for the start of the party.

They ate the special food, had their special

family night, and went to church in the Temple.

When it was all over, the people and Jesus' family started the long trip home.

At first, his parents couldn't find him, and they thought He must be with someone else that was also going home with the people.

They asked those others, but they, too, had not seen Jesus.

They asked each one of the people as they walked with them towards home.

No one knew where Jesus was.

His parents began to worry a lot.

It took a whole day to ask everyone if they had seen Jesus.

Since no one had seen Him, his parents, Joseph & Mary, decided to see if he was still back in Jerusalem.

When they got back in Jerusalem, they asked everyone they knew if they had seen Jesus.

No one had.

They began to worry more.

What if Jesus had been kidnapped?

They began to ask strangers if they knew where Jesus was.

Three days went by, and Jesus was still lost.

They passed by the temple.

Looking in, Mary caught sight of Jesus.

Mary & Joseph went in.

They found Him talking about church with the church leaders.

Mary was surprised to hear Him telling them things that they didn't know.

And yet Jesus was only a boy.

How could He know more than those church leaders?

Jesus was Heavenly Father's son.

Heavenly Father could talk to Jesus easier

than to those church leaders.

So Jesus knew a lot about the church that

those leaders did not know.

Mary was happy and proud that her son was so smart,  
but she and Joseph had worried a lot  
because Jesus had not told them  
where he was.

She said, "Son, you have hurt us by not telling us  
where you were going."

Jesus answered, "My real father, Heavenly Father, knew."  
(Jesus was the only one whose real father was Heavenly Father)  
"I had to do something that He wanted."

But Mary said, "Come with us, son."

Jesus left the church leaders and went with

his parents.

One of the church rules was to go with your mother  
right when she wants you to go.

When they finally reached their home in Galilee,  
they were a happy family.

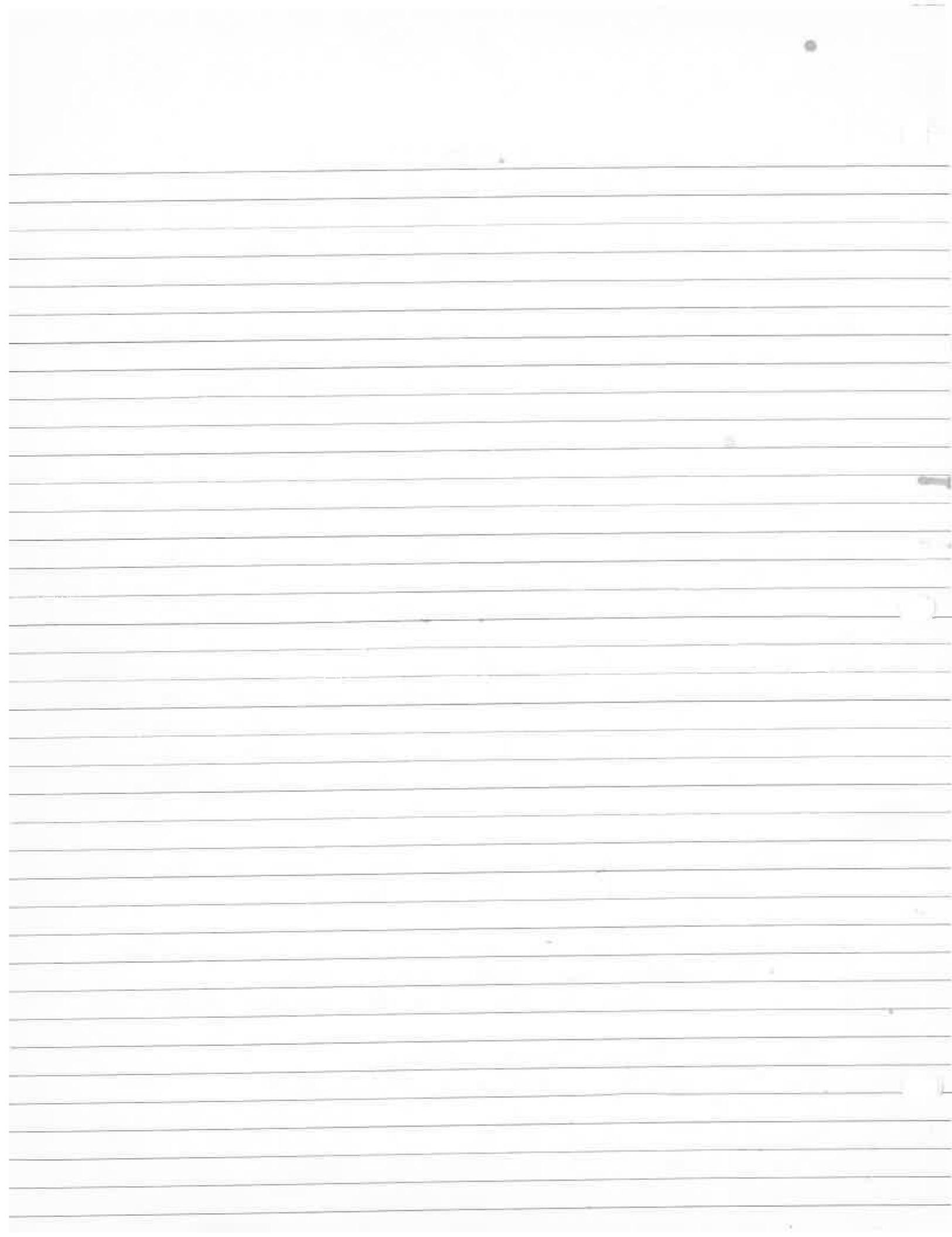
Jesus learned how to work hard as a carpenter.

He watched his father work, and

then he did what He saw his father do.

He grew bigger and stronger.

He was always kind and helpful.



When Jesus was grown up to be 30 years old,

He went on a trip.

He walked from his home in Galilee

to a place in the Jordan River where

a rough man named John was baptizing people

John told Jesus that He ought to baptize him, instead,  
but Jesus said that it was important  
for John to baptize him.

So John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.

Right after that, a dove came and landed on Jesus.

This was a sign that the Spirit of God  
had come to Jesus.

When the dove landed, everyone around heard a  
voice from Heaven say,

"This is my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Then John remembered that he had been told

"whenever a dove lands on after you have baptized him,  
it is Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

So John knew that this was Jesus Christ.

And Jesus walked away.

He felt like going to a place far away from people.

He went to the hot, dry desert.

He stayed there all alone.

He did not take any food or water with him,

because he wanted to fast from food and water.

He got thirsty. He got hungry.

But He did not drink anything, nor did he eat anything.

He did not take a sleeping bag or a tent,

but he slept out in the desert.

He said his prayers many times out there.

He stayed out in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights.

Then the devil came to Jesus in the desert,  
just when He was hungrier than He had ever been.

The devil told Him,

"Try and see if you are really the Son of God;  
try to turn these stones over here into bread.  
You do want some bread to eat, don't you?"

Jesus thought, "I am the Son of God, but if  
I make those stones turn into bread,  
I'll be doing what the devil wants  
me to do. I would be the devil's  
servant; I can't do that.  
God does not serve the devil."

So Jesus told the devil,

"No, I'll eat what my Father in Heaven  
wants me to eat. He'll bring  
me something."

So the devil couldn't get Jesus to obey him.

Next, the devil took Jesus to the top of a very high tower.  
He said, "If your Father in Heaven likes you,  
He'll surely send angels to help you fly  
if you jump from here. Go ahead and  
jump to see if He loves you."

Jesus only said, "It is wrong to play with  
Heavenly Father's love, like that.  
If He tells me to jump, I'll jump;  
but I won't jump for you —  
you're the devil."

Two times now, the devil couldn't get Jesus to obey him.

Next, the devil took Jesus to a high mountain, and showed Him how many cities and countries and people you could see from the top of the mountain.

Then he said,

"Anybody who owns all this is rich. I'll give you all the cities, countries, and people, if you will kneel down in front of me and promise to do anything I ask you to do."

The devil had forgotten that Heavenly Father owned all the earth, and that the devil couldn't give any of it away.

Jesus told the devil:

"Go away; Heavenly Father is the only One we should obey, or kneel down to."

Three times now, the devil couldn't get Jesus to obey him. Right then, he went away.

As soon as the devil had gone, angels came to Jesus and gave him water to drink and a dinner to eat. They talked to him, and told him that they loved Him, and that Heavenly Father loved Him, too.

When this was done, Jesus went back to where John was baptizing and stayed there a few days.

Wherever Jesus walked near to John, John would say

"There goes the Son of God!"

Two of John's friends were watching one day.

They were Andrew and John.

When he said "There goes the Son of God," they followed Jesus.

Jesus stopped, turned around, and asked them "What do you want?"

Andrew and John were a little surprised, but said,

"Master, show us where you live."

Jesus said "Come and see", and together

They walked to where Jesus was staying.

They talked for a long time.

Andrew thought Jesus was so wonderful, that he ran home and told his brother Simon "We have found the Messiah!"

Simon got excited.

He knew Andrew must be talking about the Son of God.

He ran back with Andrew to where Jesus was.

Jesus didn't know Simon before, but

He said "You're Simon, aren't you?"

I will call you 'The rock'."

Simon liked that.

The next day, Jesus and his new friends

started on a journey to

Galilee, where Jesus' home was.

As they walked along, Jesus saw a man who he thought was choice.

This was Philip.

He called to Philip, and said, "Follow me."

Philip joined Jesus and his friends.

As they all walked along, Philip thought of a friend of his who might like Jesus.

He ran off and found his friend Nathanael sitting under a fig tree, thinking.

He told him, "I have found the Savior, Jesus Christ." Nathanael replied that he thought the Savior was to come from another country, not their little country, that was not important.

But Philip said, "Come and see."

They ran and caught up with Jesus.

Jesus saw them coming, and said "Nathanael, you're an honest man."

Nathanael was surprised, and said "How did you know?"

Jesus told him, "Even before Philip talked to you, I saw you sitting under the fig tree."

Nathanael was amazed.

Now he was sure that this man, Jesus Christ, was the Son of God.

Jesus told Nathanael that one day he would see angels coming to Jesus from Heaven.

Then they came to the town where Jesus' old home was.

There was someone getting married there, and they had a big party.

Jesus' mother was there at the party.

Jesus and all his friends went to the party.

Jesus' mother told him that the punch bowl was empty. Inside herself she wanted Jesus to make more punch by doing a miracle.

Jesus said that it might not be the right time to do a miracle.

Only Heavenly Father says when to do miracles.

In a little while, Jesus felt good inside about making more punch by a miracle.

He told the servants to fill 6 pots with water.

They used pots that looked like flower pots, or vases.

He then told them to use what was in those pots when they needed punch.

People watching said "What good will that do? There's just water in those pots."

Jesus had the servants pour some out, anyway, into the punch bowls, and it was punch.

When the punch was served to the leader of the party, he went to the one getting married, & asked,

"Usually people serve the good punch first, and the ordinary punch now, but you've saved the best punch for now."

Jesus' friends were all amazed that Jesus had made punch from water without touching it.

After a while, it became time to go to Jerusalem.  
for the Passover feast.  
Jesus and his friends and his family walked there.  
It took 3 days.

Jesus went to the temple there.

He found storekeepers had made parts of the temple  
into stores.

This was not right.

All you saw there was buying and selling.

No one could worship Heavenly Father  
reverently.

So Jesus made a whip out of some small ropes,  
and drove out the storekeepers

and their animals to sell.

He was careful not to upset the bird cages, tho,  
because the birds couldn't get out.

But He told the bird keepers,

"Take all this out of here.

The temple is My Father's house, not yours."

Then, all the people that sold things had left the temple,  
and Jesus could worship there reverently.

Some important people asked Jesus

who had told him to do this.

Jesus said, "Destroy this temple, and in 3 days I will  
raise it up."

He meant that if they killed him,

He would come alive again after 3 days,  
but they didn't know that.

That night one of the important men in Jerusalem  
came to ask Jesus some questions.

He came at night so that none of his  
important friends would see him with Jesus.

They would make fun of him if they did see him.

He was impressed by Jesus' miracles.

Jesus told him right away,

"Nicodemus, unless you're born again,  
you can't see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus was surprised.

He said "I don't want to be a baby again!"

Jesus said, "It's a rule:

You have to be born of the water,  
and of the Spirit,

before you can go into the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus still did not understand.

Jesus said, "Don't you know? The birth I mean  
is not to become a baby again.  
to your mother and father."

Nicodemus was still puzzled.

Jesus said, "Hear that wind out there?

You can tell there is a wind,  
but you can't tell what started it.

I don't think you understand spiritual things, either."

Nicodemus asked, "How can these things be?"

Jesus answered, "You're supposed to be smart,  
but you're smart about the wrong things."

Jesus also told Nicodemus that He was the Son of God,  
the Savior, and that He would be crucified.

Nicodemus listened very carefully,

but went away unsure of himself.

He never got baptized for a long time.

If he had been baptized,

his friends would have made fun of him.

Jesus and his friends started to walk from Jerusalem back home to Galilee.

They passed through a land full of people that Jesus' friends did not like.  
(But Jesus was willing to like them.)

They stopped to rest where there was a well of water.  
His friends went off to a store to buy food,  
and Jesus was alone.

Pretty soon there came a lady to fill her water jar from the well.

Jesus said to her, "Please get me a drink."

The lady was surprised, and asked,

"If you Jews hate us, why do you talk to me,  
and ask for a drink?"

Jesus said, "If you only knew who I really am,  
you would ask me to teach you,  
because you would enjoy my teaching."

The lady asked, "Do you think you're greater than  
the prophet that made this well  
so many years ago?"

Jesus told her that he had water which would never  
let her be thirsty again, after just one sip.

The lady wanted this water, but what Jesus  
talked of was water for our spirits, not  
for our bodies or mouths.

You have to be spiritually clean to have just one sip, even,  
so Jesus tested her spirit by asking,  
"Go, and bring your husband."

The lady said, "I have no husband."

Jesus said, "Yes, I know. You have had 5 husbands  
and your man now is not really your  
husband, either."

That meant that Jesus knew that her spirit was not as clean as it should be.

The lady was surprised that Jesus knew so much about her, so fast.

She said to Jesus "You must be a prophet."

"There is supposed to be a man called Christ who will tell us all things."

Jesus told her, "I am Jesus Christ."

The lady ran off, leaving her water jar, and told everyone she met how Jesus had known so much about her, saying, "Doesn't that mean He's our Savior?"

Right then, Jesus' friends came back with the food. Jesus told them that he wasn't hungry. They were surprised, and wondered if he had found some other food, but Jesus told them,

"I get full just by doing what Heavenly Father wants me to do."

Pretty soon a big crowd of people came toward Jesus. They had heard what the lady had said. Now they listened to Jesus themselves.

Most of them said, "Now we know ourselves that this is Jesus Christ, and that He is the Savior of the world."

They asked Jesus to stay with them a while.

Jesus and his friends stayed 2 days there with the people.

Many of those people were baptized.

After a day's walk, Jesus and his friends reached a city called Cana.

An important man came to Jesus, and said,

"My boy is dying. Come to my house and heal him."

Jesus said, "All you people want is miracles.

Miracles won't help you get faith."

But the man asked again, "Please come and heal my boy."

Jesus told him, "You can go home, because your boy is all better

from this time on."

The man thanked Jesus, and went home happy.

He didn't hurry, like he had hurried to see Jesus.

Inside, he had a good feeling about his boy.

Halfway there, people from his family came running to tell him that his boy was all better.

He asked them when it had happened. They told him.

He knew that it had happened just when Jesus had said that his boy was better.

The man and his family all went and got baptized.

The Saturday after Jesus got home, He went to church. He got to give a talk.

He first read what the prophet Isaiah had written about Jesus Christ.

Then He told them, "This prophet talked about me."

The people in church were all surprised.

They said, "He lives just down the street; He can't be the Savior."

They wanted Him to show them that He was by doing a great miracle for them to see.

Jesus said, "I can't. I can only do miracles with people who believe I'm the Savior."

But those people wanted a miracle to see more than ever.

They wrestled with Jesus.

They took Him to the edge of a cliff,  
and wanted to throw him over.

But just as they got near the very edge,

Jesus turned around.

They let go of Him.

Jesus walked away from the crowd of people.

No one felt like stopping Him.

When he had gone, they wondered how He had got away.

Jesus went to the next city, Capernaum.

The next Saturday, He went to church there.

He got to talk, again.

A man there with an evil spirit in him, yelled,

"I know you; you're the Savior."

Jesus told the evil spirit in the man to not talk  
anymore,

and to come out of the man.

The evil spirit had to do what Jesus said.

It left the man limp on the ground,  
but he was all right.

Everyone thought it was wonderful that

this man called Jesus could

tell evil spirits just what to do.

Later that night, many people brought their sick friends

to Jesus, and he made them better.

Some had evil spirits, and Jesus told evil spirits to not talk  
and come right out.

Jesus didn't want any evil spirit saying that He was

the Savior; that didn't do any good.

He wanted the people around Him to say it,  
once they believed it.

The next morning, Jesus got up while it was still dark, and went into a forest to pray.

Some time after it was light, His friends found him, and told Him that many people were waiting to see Him.

But Jesus said, "No, I must go to other cities.  
I cannot stay."

So they went to other cities.

In one city, a leper came and knelt down before Jesus. He said, "Will you please heal me?"

Jesus liked that, because the leper showed that he knew Jesus could heal him, and had only asked, "Will you please?"

And Jesus put his hand on the leper, and said, "Yes. You are healed."

Jesus told the man to keep this a secret, but the man ran off and told everybody he saw how he had been healed.

After that everybody wanted to see Jesus, and Jesus had to take His friends, and hide outside the city.

But still some people found Him, and came to see Him.

Later, Jesus and His friends went back to the city Capernaum, and taught people in a house.

One man who was so sick that he shook all over, so bad that he could not walk, heard where Jesus was, and had 4 friends take him in a little bed to the house where Jesus was.

But they could not get near Jesus, because there were so many people.

Seeing this, his 4 friends climbed to the roof of the house with him in his bed. They had an idea.

The roofs of houses, then, were flat, and had an air hole in them.

The friends broke away pieces of roof from the air hole, until it was as large as the little bed.

Then they got some ropes, and let the little bed down through the hole until their sick friend was right in front of Jesus.

Jesus admired the faith of those men, and of the sick man.

He said to the sick man,

"Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

Some important people there thought,

"But only God can forgive sins."

"We don't believe that Jesus is God."

Jesus, being God, knew their thoughts, said to them,

"Why do you wonder?

Would God also be able to heal him?"

Then Jesus said, "So that you can know that I can do either one, I'll do both."

And he said to the sick man,

"Get up. You're better."

Take your bed up and put it away."

And the sick man did just that.

When He was done talking in the house,  
 Jesus and His friends went to the beach.  
 All the people followed them there, to hear more.  
 So Jesus taught them some more.

Then He walked on, and passed by where a  
 tax collector named Matthew  
 was sitting.  
 Jesus asked Matthew to "Come, Follow Me,"  
 and he did.

One day soon, Matthew held a party  
 for his friends who were tax collectors.  
 He invited Jesus, too, and Jesus went with His friends.

Now, the important people thought tax collectors were bad.  
 When they saw Jesus go in, they asked,  
 "If Jesus is so nice,  
 why does he go where bad people are?  
 They wanted to make fun of Jesus.

But Jesus told them,  
 "Don't you think that doctors ought to go to the  
 sick people?  
 Good people don't need teaching; just bad ones do."

Those important people felt silly for asking such a question,  
 and went away.

On another day, Jesus got into Peter's boat with him,  
 and talked to the people as they  
 sat on the shore.

After He was finished, Jesus told Peter and his brother  
 Andrew, to let down the nets and catch some fish.

Andrew didn't think they would get any, because  
 he had tried,  
 but they rowed to the middle of the lake and  
 let one net down, anyway.

(21)

In just a few minutes, the net was very full  
of fish.

Peter was amazed, and said, "This can't happen to us."

But Jesus told him,

"Don't worry. You've been a good fisherman.  
From now on, come with me, and I will  
make you a fisher of men."

And Peter liked that.

He and Andrew, and James and John went with Jesus.

The people where Jesus lived were very fussy about  
what you did on Saturdays,  
because Saturday was their Sunday.

One Saturday Jesus visited a place where there was  
a pool of water.

It would make you better from  
whatever sickness you had, if only  
you were ~~the~~ first to go into the  
water after it bubbled.

Jesus noticed one man who was so crippled that  
everybody else got to the water before him,  
and he could never get better.

Jesus felt sorry for that man.

He went over and asked him "Are you ready to get better?"

The man said, "I'm always ready, but others beat me to the water."  
Jesus said to him, "Get up. Pick up your little bed, and walk."

Right away the man got strong in his legs and arms  
and stood up holding his little bed,  
and then walked away.

Now, that man passed by some important people.

The important men were fussy about what you did  
on Saturday.

They told him to stop carrying his bed on Saturday.  
It was against the law, they said.

The man said, "I'm only doing what I was told to  
by the man who made me better."

At this, the important men said,

"It's against the law, also, to make people better  
on Saturday."

Who made you better?"

The man wanted to point to Jesus, because he didn't  
know His name,  
but Jesus had walked away.

Later that day, however, the man met Jesus again,  
this time in the temple.

Jesus told the man,

"Now you're all better. Don't be mean  
again, and you won't get sick."

After that, the man found the important men and told them  
that it was Jesus who had made him better.

Those men went right to where Jesus was and told him  
that they wanted to put Him in jail for making  
people better on Saturdays.

Jesus told them, "I only do what I see my Father do,  
and Heavenly Father helps you on  
any day of the week."

They didn't believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God,  
so they thought He was wrongly saying  
that Heavenly Father was His only Father.  
This made them angry.

But Jesus still told them, "It is I who shall judge everybody when they're resurrected."

You should know that I am the Son of God, because John the Baptist told you I was.

Search the scriptures in the right way and you can learn about Me.

You like being important, but you are not kind and helpful.

And those important people went away amazed.

Another time Jesus' friends were eating corn in a cornfield, and some other important people said, "It's Saturday! You can't have a picnic on Saturday!"

But Jesus told them that it was He Himself who had made their Saturday a day of rest, so if He was there, they could have a picnic.

Another time Jesus was at church, and He was ready to make a man's crooked hand straight again.

The important people there said,

"You can't make people better on Saturday. It's against the law."

Jesus asked them back,

"Do you mean it's against the law to do good?"

Those people didn't know what to say,

so Jesus said, "Well, it must be all right, then."

Then Jesus told the man with the crooked hand

to hold his hand out in front of him.

When he did, it was straight, not crooked anymore.

Still, the important people were mad at Jesus.

One night, Jesus didn't go to bed.

Instead, He went out to the forest in the dark.

There, He knelt down and prayed.

He never slept at all.

He prayed all night long.

He wanted to make some important choices the next day.

When morning came, He went to where His friends were waiting.

Many other people came, besides.

Jesus called some of His friends close to him.

He told them that He wanted them to be apostles.

He laid His hands on each one that said yes,  
and ordained each one an apostle.

When He was through, there were 12 apostles.

Their names were:

Peter, James, John, Andrew,

Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas,

James, Judas, Simon, and another Judas.

Peter had been a rich fisherman, but he gave that up  
to be an apostle.

A little later, Jesus was with all of His friends  
on the side of a small hill.

He told them that Heavenly Father blesses us when He  
is happy with us.

He told them how to make Heavenly Father happy with us.

He said, "If you feel you need to be kind & helpful more than you  
are already, I'll give you part of My kingdom.

" If someone you love has died, you will know  
that it's OK.

" If you don't hit back, you can own the whole earth.

" If you want to learn, you will be able to.

"If you're kind to all creatures, Jesus Christ  
will be kind to you."

"If you never tell lies, you can go into the same room  
where Heavenly Father is."

"If you try to stop fights, Heavenly Father will  
call you his child, & love you."

"If people make fun of you for belonging to My church,  
I'll share with you all the  
nice things in Heaven."

Then Jesus told His apostles,

"By being apostles, you are special, just like the  
flavor of salt is special."

Try hard to not lose any of your flavor.

"By being apostles, you are like candles."

Don't hide your candles in a box where  
no one can see them light."

He told them that:

"In the old days, it was wrong to kill; now it's wrong to even be mad."

"Always make up with your brother before going to church."

"In the old days, it was wrong for fathers to love some other lady who  
was not his wife; now it's wrong to even look at another lady."

"In the old days, it was wrong to say Heavenly Father's name except  
when you were talking to Him or about Him; now it was the same."

"It used to be alright to hit back; now it was wrong."

"It used to be alright to be mean to people who bothered you.  
Now you must be kind to them."

"You see, Heavenly Father makes it so that both His enemies and  
His friends get food to eat. We should also treat  
our enemies as good as we treat our friends."

"If you do these things, you'll become more like Heavenly Father."

He said, "Pay your tithing because you want to, not because  
you want your friends to think you're good."

He told them how to pray, beginning by saying, "Heavenly Father," and we all do and say "In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen."

He told them to never tell someone else they were doing wrong until they were first doing right. Also, "Don't tell your precious secrets to just anybody." They may ruin them.

"Be sure to treat other people exactly how you want them to treat you."

"Watch out for what strangers might do. Don't believe what they say until you see that they do it, also."

"And you apostles be sure to do all I've told you. Then you'll be like the house built on a rock. When the wind came, & the water, it was OK. Not doing all this will be like the house built on sand: the wind and water washed it away."

After this, Jesus walked back into the city, Capernaum. Some people there told Him that an army captain wanted Him to come and heal his servant,

who was ready to die. Jesus and these people walked to the captain's house.

But the captain sent someone to the door and they said, "The captain does not think he is worthy to have the Savior of the world come into his house. But just have Jesus say the words out there, and he knows that his servant will then get better."

The captain knew that, just like he could tell one of his soldiers to put up a tent, Jesus could tell an angel to make his servant well.

Jesus liked that. He said, "This stranger, the captain, has more faith than many of my friends." "He will get to heaven easier than many of you."

The next day, Jesus went to the town called, Nain. A lot of people followed Jesus there.

As they walked along, a funeral procession passed by. A boy had died. His mother was there; she was crying. There was no father to help the mother. He had died, too, long ago.

Jesus felt sorry for this mother.

He stopped the funeral.

He told the mother to stop crying, and went to the box where her boy's body was. He said, "Young man, get up!"

The boy sat right up in the box and said "Hello" to Jesus. Jesus took him by the hand, and told him to go over to his mother.

The boy and his mother hugged & kissed, and went home.

The funeral people didn't know what to do, but they thought it was good.

One day, Jesus was invited to have dinner at an important person's house.

As He was eating a lady came in and went to Jesus.

She knelt down and kissed His feet.

Then she began to cry, very softly.

Her tears dropped on Jesus' feet, washing them.

She was very sad about something she had done  
that was bad.

Next, she used her long hair to dry Jesus' feet.

Then, she put some oil on His feet.

The important man who was giving Jesus dinner  
thought that this lady ought not  
to touch Jesus, because of the  
bad thing she had done long ago.

Jesus knew what he was thinking.

He asked the man,

"Two men owed a store some money.

One owed 50 pennies, the other owed 500.

The storekeeper told each of them that

it was OK; they did not have to pay.

Which man do you suppose loved the storekeeper more?"

His important friend answered,

"The one who owed him 500 pennies."

Jesus then told him, "See this lady?

You haven't offered me water to wash my feet.

She has washed my feet with her tears."

"I forgive her for that bad thing which she did,  
and she loves me a lot.

You haven't done anything nearly as bad,  
and so you would love me less."

Jesus then told the lady,

"Your sins are forgiven.

Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace."

One time Jesus cast an evil spirit out of a man  
who couldn't see or talk, besides.

The people around there thought that was marvelous.  
They were happy to know Jesus Christ.  
They said He was the Savior.

But the important people did not want the others  
to think that.  
They said, "Jesus uses the devil's power to cast out devils."

But Jesus told them how wrong their thoughts were.  
He said "The devil wants those evil spirits to  
bother people,  
so why would he let anybody cast them out?"  
"I cast them out by Heavenly Father's power."

Then this made those important people ask  
that Jesus do a great miracle, as a sign to them  
that He was sent from God.

Jesus said,  
"Only mean people look for miracles.  
No, I won't do a miracle just because you  
want one."

The people in Nineveh that the prophet Jonah  
was sent to repented without seeing  
any signs.  
Why won't you?"

Those important people didn't know what to say.  
The people around Jesus liked Him all the more.

Jesus told some stories.

He said, "A man was planting some wheat in a field.

He set the wheat deep from his hand to the ground. Some of it landed where the dirt had not been dug up, and it wasn't long before some birds saw it laying there on top of the ground, and came and ate it up. Some of the wheat landed among some rocks. Later, it sprouted, but there was not much dirt for it to put its roots into, and when the sun got hot, it died. Some of the wheat landed among some small weeds. When it grew, the weeds grew, too, and it never got enough sun, and it died, too. But some of the wheat landed where the dirt had been dug, and it grew strong, and for each wheat seed there grew a wheat stalk with 50 wheats on it."

The 12 apostles wondered what That story meant.

When they asked Jesus, He said,

"The wheat seed is like someone hearing that he should be kind and helpful.

Some people don't understand why they should be kind and helpful, so they forget about it.

That is like the wheat seeds that the birds ate.

Some people like to be kind and helpful, but they soon stop, because their friends make fun of them when they're nice.

That is like the wheat seeds that landed in the rocks.

Some people like to be kind and helpful, but they still like to grab toys away from others, and they soon forget all about being nice.

That is like the wheat that landed in the weeds.

Some people do their best to be kind and helpful, for a long time, and what they do makes 50 other people want to be nice, too.

That is like the wheat that landed in the good dirt,

and grew to make 50 other wheat seeds.

Another story Jesus told was:

"A man planted some wheat in a field. That night, a bad man went into that field, and planted weeds on top of where the wheat was planted. When the wheat grew, the weeds grew, too."

The man said "A bad man has done this."

But the man did not go pull up the weeds. He said, "Since the wheat and the weeds are so close together, pulling up the weeds might hurt the roots of the wheat." The man waited until it was time to cut the wheat and store it for food. When that time came, he pulled up all the weeds, put them in a big pile, and burned them. Then he went and cut all the wheat and stored it away for food."

When the 12 apostles asked Him to explain it, Jesus said,

"The wheat is like people that are kind and helpful."

The weeds are like people that are mean.

The bad man is the devil.

When it is time for the end of the world,

the mean people will get caught in a fire, and the kind and helpful people will get to go meet Me, Jesus Christ."

Another time, Jesus said,

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. It's small when you plant it, but grows to be bigger than a man."

and, "The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast in your mother's bread. She uses just a little, but that little bit goes all over and makes the whole bread rise."

Jesus also said,

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure in a field. When a man finds it, he uses all his money to buy that field, so the treasure can be his."

and

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who found a very beautiful pearl in a store, and he used all his money to buy that pearl."

and

"The kingdom of heaven is like a net full of fish. The fishermen will throw out the bad fish, and will save the good fish."

About the time that night came,  
an important man came to see Jesus,  
wanting to be an apostle.

Jesus told him,

"That would mean you could not live any longer  
in your nice house."

The man decided he didn't want to be an apostle  
after all.

Another man wanted to be an apostle, too,

but Jesus told him that it would be hard,  
and he couldn't go home for a long time.

That man decided he didn't want to be an apostle  
after all.

Still another man came and asked to be an apostle.

When Jesus told him it would be hard,  
he decided that he didn't want to be an apostle  
either.

Then, Jesus and His apostles got into their boat.  
They started to cross the lake.

Jesus was tired, and it was night, so  
He found a place in the back of the boat  
where he could curl up,  
and He went to sleep.

In a little while a storm came upon them.

The wind blew fiercely.

The waves got bigger and bigger that they splashed  
into the boat.

A lot of water was coming into the boat.

The apostles thought that the boat would soon sink.

They were afraid.

Jesus was not afraid; He went on sleeping.

The apostles woke him up.

They said, "Save us."

Jesus told them that if they had more faith,  
they would not be afraid.

Jesus saw that the wind was fierce

and that the waves were high.

He told the wind, "You shouldn't be so strong around here."

He told the water, "Peace, be still."

The wind stopped. There wasn't even a breeze.

The waves went away. The water looked flat.

The apostles were amazed.

Jesus went back to sleep.

The next morning, they landed their boat on the shore.  
It was near a place where a lot of caves were.

A man who had evil spirits in him lived there.

He acted crazy. He hurt himself on purpose.

He had broken out of jail by bending the bars.

He screamed a lot. He never wore any clothes.

That man ran toward Jesus, and the evil spirits in him said,

"What have I got to do with you, Jesus; you're the Son of God."

Jesus told the evil spirits to go out of the man.

The evil spirits said,

"Please don't send us away."

Jesus asked their names.

The man said,

"My name is Legion, for we are many."

"If we have to leave this man's body, may we please enter the bodies of those pigs over there?"

Jesus also saw that there were about 2000 pigs in a herd that was passing by.

Jesus gave his permission.

Right away, all of the pigs seemed to go crazy.

They ran as fast as they could.

They ran down a steep hill to the lake.

They plunged into the lake, and drowned,

they could not swim.

The man that had acted crazy before,

now sat quietly by Jesus.

Friends brought him clothes, and he put them on.

People in towns nearby came to see what all the splashing had been about.

They saw that the pigs were all drowned.

They saw the man dressed, and sitting by Jesus.

They thought that Jesus was a powerful man.

They did not feel worthy to have Jesus with them, so they asked Jesus to travel on.

to other towns,  
and to not stay there.

So Jesus went back to his boat.

That man wanted to go with Jesus,  
but Jesus told him to go home

and tell how He had helped him.

The man went home, and became a missionary.

Jesus and His friends crossed back over the lake  
in their boat.

There were people already waiting for Him there.

A man named Jairus, an important man, came  
and asked Jesus to make his little girl  
better. She was so sick that  
she was almost dead.

Jesus walked to Jairus' house.

On the way there, a sick lady made her way  
through all the people around Jesus,  
and got close enough to touch the  
bottom of His robe.

Jesus may never have felt her touch His robe,  
but she was healed, and Jesus felt  
virtue go out of him.

Jesus stopped and turned to the large crowd,  
and said, "Who touched me?"

Then the lady came close and said, "I did."

Jesus told her that she had great faith,  
and He was glad she was better.

Right then, people came from Jairus' house,  
saying, "The little girl has died."

Several apostles told Jairus,

"Go home now, leave Jesus alone;  
He can't help you now."

Jairus was very sad.

But Jesus said, "Don't be afraid, Jairus; only believe," and they went to Jairus' house.

Jesus only let 3 of His apostles go with Him and Jairus in to see the little girl.

All the neighbors were there crying over her.

Jesus told them,

"Why are you crying? She is not dead. She sleeps."

But they said they all knew she was dead.

They made fun of what Jesus had said.

Jesus commanded all those neighbors to leave the house.  
Then it was all quiet.

Then Jesus walked up to the girl, who had been lain on a bed.

He said, "Little girl, I tell you, get up."

The little girl sat up, got off of the bed, and walked around the room.

Jesus told Jairus to get her some dinner, because she would soon be hungry.

Then He told everyone to never tell what had happened there.

Then He and His friends went away.

But two blind men followed them, yelling,

"Thou son of David, have mercy on us."

Jesus did not stop; he turned a corner and went into a house.

The blind men followed him there.

Jesus asked them, "Do you believe that I can make you see?"  
They both said, "Yes, Lord."

Jesus then touched their eyes, and said,  
"If your faith is strong, you are healed."

The two men could see; they were happy.  
They told everyone they met how they were made better,  
even though Jesus had told them  
to keep it a secret.

Jesus again visited his home town of Nazareth.

Still, He could do no miracles there,

because they all said,

"You can't be the Son of God, because you  
live just down the street."

"You've got ordinary brothers and sisters."

So Jesus left his home town.

The apostles had been with Jesus for some months  
and Jesus sent them to other cities to preach.

He told them -

"Heal the sick; pray a lot, so that you  
can say the right things to others."

"Mean men will want to hurt you,

but don't be afraid - Heavenly Father will help.

He knows each little bird's name, and knows when  
any of them is hurt. He'll watch for you, too."

So the 12 apostles went to other cities and preached.

In a few weeks, they came back and told Jesus  
how wonderful their missions had been.

The crowd around Jesus was so big that they could  
hardly talk to him.

Jesus took the Twelve to a boat. They got in,  
and sailed across the lake.

They landed, and climbed up a hill there,  
and talked for a little while.

The apostles told Jesus how they had been able  
to heal the sick, using Jesus' authority.

A large crowd of people came and sat on the hillside near Jesus.

They wanted Him to tell them more about being kind and helpful.

Jesus talked to them for a long time.

They liked it. No one got up or moved.

When the sun was ready to go down,

Jesus saw that they were hungry.

He didn't want them to have to go home hungry.  
He wanted to do a miracle for them.

Jesus asked Philip how much bread he thought

it would take to feed all the people.

Philip said, "It would take more than 200 loaves."

Andrew said, "I saw a boy with 5 loaves

and some fish, but that wouldn't do."

Jesus said, "Bring them here; I'll help make it be enough."

Jesus told all the people to sit down in rows.

There were about 5000 people there.

Jesus took the loaves of bread and the fishes,  
and said a blessing on them.

Then He gave some to the apostles to eat,  
and gave the rest to men who would  
give some of it to each person.

After an hour, everyone was full.

Jesus told the apostles to gather up what food was left.

It took 12 baskets to hold what was left.

That was much more than they had had

at the beginning,  
before Jesus blessed it.

The people liked Jesus for that.

They wanted to make him King, because  
He had brought them food.

When Jesus saw this, He had the 12 apostles get in their boat and sail away.

Then Jesus made the people want to go home, instead of making Him King.

Jesus stayed on the hill and prayed to Heavenly Father. He prayed for half the night.

Then Jesus thought of the 12 apostles in their boat. He knew they were in a storm on the lake. He knew they needed help.

Jesus went down the hill, and walked onto the water. He walked a long ways on the water before He got to the apostles.

When Jesus got near the boat, the apostles saw Him and were afraid; they thought it was a ghost. Jesus called out, "Don't be afraid; it is I."

So Peter said, "If it's really you, Jesus, signal me to walk to you like you're walking on top of the water."

Jesus said he could.

Peter climbed over the side of the boat, and put his feet on the water, and walked toward Jesus.

He was almost there, when he saw the waves and felt the wind again, and he was afraid again. When he became afraid, he began to sink.

He called out for Jesus to save him, and Jesus caught his hand, and brought him up.

Jesus asked Peter, "Why did you begin to doubt?"

Jesus and Peter climbed into the boat.

The storm and the wind stopped.

They reached the shore safely.

In the morning, more people came to see Jesus.

He talked to them.

He healed those that were sick.

The people whom He had fed the night before  
also came searching for Him.

They had got some boats and come across the lake.

They found Jesus in church, talking.

They rudely walked up to the stand, and asked,  
"How did you get here?"

Jesus answered,

"You don't want Me because I'm the Savior,  
you want more food, like yesterday."

"You need food for your spirit."

"You get that by believing in Me,  
and by being kind & helpful."

But those people did not want to do that.

They wanted more bread, every day.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life."

"Eat the bread of life, and you'll never get hungry."

None of the important people there thought that Jesus  
was the Savior.

Some of the ordinary people did not believe Him, either.

They went home and left off following Him.

Some months passed by.

Certain important people came to see Jesus.

They asked Him why He and His apostles did not  
drop water on their hands like other people did,

when they came for dinner.

Jesus knew that they were mean people,  
and He asked them a question, instead.

"Why do you let your grandfathers and grandmothers  
go hungry when they are too old to  
get their own food?"

"You should take care of them when they are old."

Then Jesus told them how foolish it was to  
drop water on your hands just before  
eating dinner.

"What goes into your mouth will not stop you  
from being kind & helpful,  
but what comes out of your mouth can."

The apostles asked Jesus to explain that to them.

Jesus said, "When you eat something,  
your body gets strength from the good parts  
in it, and throws away what is bad.  
It doesn't stay in your body."

"But what words you say come from the feelings  
in your heart, and if your mouth says  
bad words, you know that your heart  
keeps bad thoughts, and that can stop  
you from being kind & helpful."

The apostles told Jesus that what He said hurt the feelings  
of those important men.

Jesus said, "What I say only hurts mean people.  
These people do not know how to be kind & helpful.  
When they try to teach others how, it is like a  
blind person leading another blind person —  
they both fall into ditches."

"These people want to hurt me, someday."

Jesus and His apostles went on a trip, walking to another country.

They wanted to be alone.

But still, the people from this country crowded around Jesus, just as the people in

Israel had done.

The people here were not Heavenly Father's favorites, as were the people in Israel, though.

So...

When a lady came to Jesus saying, "Jesus, Our Savior,"  
"Heal my daughter; she has an evil spirit in her."

Jesus did not answer her.

He just kept on walking.

The lady kept on asking, and asking.

The apostles said, "Jesus, why don't you do what she wants?"

"If you do, then she'll go away."

Jesus said, "I am not sent to help these people now."

After Israel is all kind, then Heavenly Father will tell Me to help these people."

They went into a house.

The lady came into the house, too, still asking.

Jesus looked at her and said,

"I can't take the children's bread and feed it to their dog, can I?"

He meant, "No, it is not proper to help you."

She said, "But the dog gets the crumbs, doesn't he?"

When Jesus heard this, He was impressed by her faith.

He said, "Your faith is great."

"Go home, and you will find your daughter is all better."

She went home, and found that her daughter was all better.

(50)

After some days, Jesus and His apostles travelled to yet another country.

Still, crowds of people came to see Him.

In one place, He healed a man who could not hear, and could not talk.

He touched the man's ears, He spit, and

He touched the man's tongue. Then He

prayed, and after, said, "Open Up."

Then the man found he could hear and talk.

Another time, Jesus talked to a crowd of people for so long, that suppertime passed.

There were 4000 people listening.

Jesus didn't want them to go home hungry,

so He had the apostles find what food there was.

They found 7 loaves of bread, and a few fish.

Jesus told the people to sit on the ground in rows.

He blessed the food.

He had the apostles take some, and give it to men who would pass it down the rows.

After about an hour, everyone was full.

They gathered up what was leftover, and it filled 7 baskets.

The people then got up and went home, thankful to Jesus.

Jesus and His apostles tried teaching again in Palestine, but the important people kept bothering him with silly questions, so He soon left, with His apostles, and walked a long way north.

While they walked, Jesus asked them,

"Do you remember who people think I am?"  
The apostles said, "Yes. They think you're a prophet, like Elijah, or Jeremiah."

Then Jesus asked,

"But who do you think I am?"  
The chief apostle, Peter, answered for them all:  
"You are Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Jesus was happy that His apostles were sure who He was. He told Peter that Heavenly Father had told him so when he had prayed about who Jesus was. He said that this was the way to be sure about anything they would need to know when He left, and they would start a church.

That way, nothing would ever go wrong for very long, because they would always know how Heavenly Father wanted things done.

Jesus also gave Peter the right to go to Heavenly Father in prayer for the whole church, and to marry people for always.

Jesus then told the apostles how He must soon be crucified.

Peter said, "No, don't let them do it, Lord." Jesus said, "I must let it happen; that's part of being the Savior of the world."

"If I don't, there will be no way for anyone to get back to live with Heavenly Father, ever."

(52)

Then Peter realized how important it was  
for Jesus Christ to give up His life.

After about a week,

Jesus took the 3 chief apostles,  
Peter, James, and John,  
and went up on a high mountain with them.

Jesus knelt down and prayed. It was night.  
The 3 apostles got tired soon, and fell asleep.

After a short while, they woke up because  
there was a very bright light around them.  
They saw Jesus in front of them,  
and His face shone, like the sun.  
His clothes were shining, too.

Then they saw 2 other persons talking to Jesus.  
They also shone like Jesus.  
One was Moses.

The other was Elijah.

They were talking about Jesus' having to give up  
His life, and be crucified.

When Moses & Elijah turned to go away,  
Peter said, "Lord, let's make 3 little houses here,  
so that you and those prophets can stay."

But a bright cloud came around them all, just then,  
and a voice said,

"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.  
Hear ye Him."

The 3 apostles knew it was the voice of Heavenly Father.  
They quickly knelt down and  
bent as low as they could.

After that, Jesus touched them, and said,

"You can get up now; it's all right."

will be a silver dollar in there. Take it out, and give it to the man to pay for Me & you." That's just what Peter did, and the man was happy.

One day after a walk together, Jesus asked the apostles what they had been arguing about as they walked. They did not answer, for they were ashamed. They had been arguing which of them was the greatest, or smartest, or the best apostle.

But Jesus brought a little boy to them, and said, "Children like this are the most important to Me. You don't have to be smart, or big, or best for Me to like you. Just be like a little child."

Then He told them a story:

A man had 100 sheep.

One evening when he brought them from the pasture to the corral, he noticed that there were only 99 sheep.

He grew worried.

He closed the corral gate, with the 99 sheep safe inside.

He went back to the pasture to look for the lost sheep. It wasn't there.

He looked in the forest nearby.

He looked in a place where you could climb on big rocks.

Then he heard a sheep going "BAA", "BAA".

He climbed toward the sound.

Way up among the rocks, he found his lost sheep.

Its wool was caught in a thorny bush.

He got his sheep loose, but it was hurt.

He put it on his shoulders, and carried it home.

When he got home, he put that sheep to bed in the corral.

He called his friends over and said,

"Let's have a party, because I found my one lost sheep."

Jesus added, "Heavenly Father is happy, just like that, when someone stops being mean, and stays kind & helpful."

As they talked some more, Jesus told them, "If someone says something in church about you that is wrong, you can go ask him to say that he was wrong."

"If he won't say so, you can get people that agree with you to ask him also."

"If he still won't say that he was wrong, you can take him to the Bishop who, if he agrees with you, can tell that person that he can't take the sacrament anymore."

But Peter, the chief apostle, remembered that Jesus had said it was good to forgive people for things they had done to you.

He asked Jesus,

"Should I forgive someone seven times - will that be enough?"

Jesus said, "No. 70 times 7 times would still not be enough."

Then Peter knew that it was important to forgive people all you can.

Jesus told a story:

A king had a man brought to him who owed him \$500. The man had no money to pay him.

The king was about to sell that man as a slave.

Someone would have bought him for \$50.

But the man knelt down before the king and cried.

He said,

"Give me more time to pay you; I will."



