

John.
A translation.



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The United States of America.

The cover exhibits a ossuary containing the remains of the Jewish high priest Kaiaphas. This burial chest is located at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, Israel, accession number IAA 1991-468. The ossuary was discovered by a crew constructing a park south of Jerusalem in 1990.

It is composed of soft limestone. It has two Aramaic inscriptions which identify the remains. One is visible on the end of the ossuary: **יֹסֵף בֶּר־כַּפְּאָ** yosef bar-kapha 'Joseph son of Kaiaphas'.

Joseph Kaiaphas was appointed high priest (tenure 18-36 AD) by the Roman prefect Valerius Gratus. Kaiaphas was the son-in-law of a prior high priest, Annas (tenure 6-15 AD), who was deposed by the same Gratus. Kaiaphas was himself deposed by the Syrian governor Lucius Vitellius.

Kaiaphas is mentioned numerous times in the gospel of John: the Jewish council responds to the resurrection of Lazarus (11:49-53, 18:14), and the high priests interrogate Jesus prior to his death (18:12-14, 18:19-24, 18:28).

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John.

Dunker John sees Jesus.

In the beginning was the Idea.

¹In the beginning was the Idea. The Idea was with God. In fact, the Idea was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³He created everything. Not one thing existed without him.

⁴Through him came life. This life was light for men. ⁵The light appeared in darkness. However, the darkness would not accept it.

God sent John.

⁶God sent a man. His name was John. ⁷He came to give a report. He told about the light. Then everyone could believe because of the light. ⁸John was not the light. He just told about the light.

⁹The light was the truth. It shined for everyone. The light came into the world. ¹⁰The light lived in the world. However, the light created the world. The world did not know the light.

¹¹He came to his own people. They would not accept him. ¹²So, he gave the right to become children of God to those who did accept him. They believed in his name. ¹³They were born not by blood, not by physical intent, nor by human intent. They were born by God.

¹⁴The Idea became physical. He lived among us. We saw his glory. He was special to the father. He was full of grace and truth.

¹⁵John told about him. He shouted out, "He is the one I already told you about: 'The one who comes after me has priority over me. He is superior.'¹⁶We have all benefitted from his excellence. We receive one gift after another. ¹⁷Moses gave the law. Grace and truth comes through Jesus

the messiah. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. He is the one and only God. He is near the father. God revealed him.”

¹⁹This was John’s report.

Who is John?

The Jews from Jerusalem, priests, and Levites sent representatives to ask John, “Who are you?”

²⁰He admitted it. He did not misrepresent, “I am not the messiah.”

²¹So, they asked, “Well then, are you Elijah?”

He said, “No, I am not.”

“Are you the prophet?”

“No.”

²²So, they said, “Then who are you? We have to give an answer to the people who sent us. What do you have to say for yourself?”

²³“My voice is shouting in the wilderness: ‘Keep the lord’s road straight!’^a” This is what the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴(The representatives were Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked, “So, you are not the messiah, Elijah, or the prophet. Then why do you immerse people?”

²⁶“I immerse in water. There is someone present who is better than me. You do not know him. ²⁷He came after me. However, I am not worthy to untie his shoe-strap.”

²⁸This happened in Bethany (on the other side of the Jordan). John immersed people there.

Jesus is the lamb of God.

²⁹The next morning, John saw Jesus coming toward him. He said, “Look. The lamb of God. He removes the sins of the world. ³⁰I told you about him. He comes after me. He has priority over me. He is superior. ³¹I did not understand it before. I came immersing in water. This was so he could appear to Israel.”

³²John reported further. “I saw the spirit. It came down from heaven like a dove. It landed on him. ³³I did not understand it. However, God sent me to immerse him in water.”

“He told me, ‘You will see the spirit come down. It will land on him. He will be immersed in the holy spirit.’”

a) Isaiah 40:3.

³⁴“Well, I did see it. I report that he is the son of God.”

John was standing around with two of his disciples.

³⁵The next day, John was standing around with two of his disciples. ³⁶He saw Jesus walk past. He said, “Look, the lamb of God.”

³⁷The two disciples heard him say this. So, they went after Jesus.

³⁷Jesus turned around. He saw them following. “What do you want?”

“Rabbi (translated Teacher), where do you live?”

³⁹“Come along. See for yourself.”

So, they left. They saw where he lived. They stayed with him for the day. (It was about ten o'clock.)

⁴⁰Andrew and Simon Peter were brothers. He was one of the two with John. They were followers of John. ⁴¹He found his brother Simon. He told him, “We found the messiah (translated anointed)!”

⁴²Then he took him to Jesus. Jesus saw him. He said, “You are Simon, Jonah’s son. Your name is *Cephas* (translated, *Rock*) from now on.”

⁴²The next day, he decided to leave. He went to Galilee. There he met Philip. He told him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴(Philip was from Beth-Zada. Andrew and Peter lived in this town.)

⁴⁵Philip found Nathaniel. “I found him! The law of Moses and the prophets wrote about him. He is Joseph’s son. His name is Jesus. He is from Nazareth.”

⁴⁶Nathaniel asked him, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

Philip responded, “Come on. See for yourself.”

⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathaniel coming. He commented. “For sure, that is an Israelite who lacks any deceit.”

⁴⁸Nathaniel asked him, “How do you know me?”

“Philip called you under the fig tree. I saw you then.”

⁴⁹“Rabbi. You are the son of God. You are the king of Israel.”

⁵⁰“You believe that just because I told you that I saw you standing under the fig tree? You will see things a lot better than that. ⁵¹I guarantee you this: You will see the sky open up. You will see God’s messengers going up and down near the son of man.”

Jesus teaches and performs miracles.

There was a wedding.

²Three days later, there was a wedding. It was in Cana, in the region of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples were guests at the wedding. The wine ran out. His mother told Jesus, "We do not have any more wine."

Jesus asked her, "Well, madam, what do you want me to do? It is not my time yet."

His mother told the waiters, "Do whatever he tells you."

There were six stone Jewish purification containers present. They held between 80 and 120 liters. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water."

So, they filled them up to the top. Then he told them, "Draw the water out. Give it to the manager."

So, they did. The manager tasted the water. It had become wine. He did not know how it happened. The waiters who drew the water did not know, either. The manager called the groom over. "The men served the good wine first. They served the rest later. However, you apparently saved the best wine for last."

This was the first miracle Jesus performed. It happened in Cana, which is in Galilee. He showed his greatness. His disciples believed in him.

Afterwards, he went down to Capernaum. His mother, brothers, and disciples joined him. He stayed there for a while.

Jesus drives the merchants out of the temple.

It was close to the Jewish Passover. So, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found merchants in the temple area. They were selling sheep and doves. There were vendors exchanging currencies.

So, he made a whip out of ropes. He drove them all out. That included both the sheep and the merchants. He spilled the money. He turned their tables over. He told the dove salesmen, "Take this stuff away from here. Do not turn my father's house into a retail business."

Then his disciples remembered what is written, "Zeal for your house consumes me."^a

a) Psalm 69:9.

The Jewish leaders asked him, “Can you provide justification for what you just did?”

Jesus responded, “Destroy this temple. I will rebuild it in three days.”

This provoked the Jewish leaders. “The temple took forty-six years to build. How are you going to rebuild it in three days?”

(Jesus referred to the ‘temple’. However, what he meant is his body. Later on, he rose from the dead. His disciples remembered that he said this. Then they believed the scriptures. They believed Jesus’ words.)

He was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival. Many people trusted in his name. They saw all the miracles he performed. Jesus himself did not trust them at this point. He knew what was really happening. He did not need anyone to explain people. He knew what was inside them.

There is a Pharisee named Nicodemus.

³There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus. He was a prominent Jew. He came to Jesus during the night. “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher. You are sent by God. No one can perform miracles like you unless God is with him.”

Jesus responded. “I guarantee you this: If you are not born from above, then you will not see God’s kingdom.”

Nicodemus asked, “How is it possible for a grown man to be born? Is it possible for him to crawl back into his mother’s belly? Can he be born a second time?”

“I guarantee you this: If anyone is not born from both water and spirit, then he cannot enter God’s kingdom. Those born physically are physical. Those born spiritually are spiritual. Do not be surprised that I told you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows wherever it blows. You can hear it. However, you do not know where it came from. You do not know where it is going. That is what it is like for those born spiritually.”

Nicodemus asked, “How is that possible?”

“You are Israel’s teacher. You do not know? I guarantee you this: We know what we are talking about. We saw what we claim. You do not accept our report. I talk about earthly things. You do not believe. If I talk about things from heaven, then how are you going to believe? No one can go back up into heaven unless he first came down from heaven. He is the son of man.”

“Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. In the same way, the son of man must be lifted up. Everyone who believes in him will have life forever.”

“God loved the world a lot. He sent his only son. Anyone who believes in him will not die. He will live forever.”

“God did not send his son into the world to judge the world. He did send him. The world will be safe because of him. Anyone who believes in him will not be condemned. The one who does not believe is already condemned. He does not believe in God’s only son.”

“Here is the judgment: The light came into the world. Men preferred darkness over light. Their actions were evil. Everyone who behaves irresponsibly hates the light. He does not come toward the light. He does not want his actions exposed. The one who follows the truth comes toward the light. He wants it to be obvious that he lives for God.”

There is a debate about ritual washing.

Afterwards, Jesus and his disciples went to Judah. He spent time with them. He immersed people.

Dunker John was in Aenon. It is near Salim. There was plenty of water there. People constantly arrived there to get immersed. (This was before John was thrown into prison.) John’s disciples and the Jewish leaders had a debate about ritual washing.

They came to John. They said, “Rabbi. You reported about that fellow. He was with you on the other side of the Jordan. We saw him immersing. Everyone came to him.”

John answered, “A man cannot accept him unless heaven lets him. You yourselves can confirm it. I told you that I am not the messiah. I told you that I was sent ahead of him. The bridegroom gets the bride. The best man takes care of him. He pays attention to the groom’s needs. He gets his satisfaction from the groom. This is what completes my joy. He has to increase. I must decrease.”

“The one from above is above everything. The one from earth comes from the earth. He speaks from the earth. The same is true for the one from heaven. He may report what he both saw and heard. That does not mean anyone accepts his report. The one who accepts his report also confirms that God is true.”

“The one that God sent speaks God’s words. He did not get the spirit in limited quantities. The father loves the son. He puts everything into his hand. Whoever believes in the son lives forever. The one who disbelieves the son will not see life. Instead, the anger of God will stay with him.”

⁴Jesus figured out that the Pharisees heard both that Jesus gained many disciples and also immersed more people than John. ²(Technically, Jesus did not immerse anyone himself. His disciples did.) ³So, he left Judah. He went back to Galilee.

Jesus asks a Samaritan woman for water.

⁴Since he had to pass through Samaria, ⁵he arrived at the town of Shechem in Samaria. (It is near the property that Jacob gave to his son, Joseph. ⁶Jacob’s well was there.) Jesus was tired from the trip. So, he sat down at the well. (It was about six o’clock.)

⁷A Samaritan woman showed up to draw water. Jesus asked her, “Give me something to drink.” ⁸(His disciples had already gone to town to buy some food.)

⁹This provoked the Samaritan woman to speak, “You are a Jew. How is it that you ask a Samaritan woman for something to drink?” (Jews did not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰Jesus answered her, “If you only knew about the gift of God who made the request, ‘Give me something to drink.’ Then you could have asked him. He could give you running water.”

¹¹“Sir, you do not even have a bucket. The well is deep. How can you get running water? ¹²Are you more powerful than our father Jacob? He gave us this well. He, his sons, and their cattle drank from it.”

¹³Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks from this water will be thirsty again. ¹⁴Whoever drinks the water that I give him will never be thirsty again. The water I give him will be like a spring that pours out to eternal life.”

¹⁵The woman said, “Sir, give me some of this water. Then I will not be thirsty. I will not have to come here to draw water anymore.”

¹⁶“Go. Tell your husband. Bring him here.”

¹⁷The woman responded, “I do not have a husband.”

Jesus said, "You are right when you said, 'I do not have a husband.'¹⁶ You have had five husbands. The guy you are living with now is not your husband. You surely spoke the truth."

¹⁹The woman said, "Sir, I can tell you are some kind of prophet.²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain. You all claim that Jerusalem is the required place to worship."

²¹Jesus told her, "Woman, believe me. A time is coming when you all will worship the father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.²² You all worship what you do not understand. We worship what we do understand. Salvation comes from the Jews."

²³"A time is coming and, in fact, it is already here. Genuine worshippers will worship the father spiritually and sincerely. This is what the father expects from those who worship him.²⁴ God is a spirit. Those who worship him must do so spiritually and sincerely."

²⁵The woman said, "I know the anointed one is coming. He is called the messiah. When he comes, he will tell us about everything."

²⁶Jesus told her, "That is me. You are talking to him."

²⁷About that time, his disciples arrived. They were surprised that he was talking with a woman. However, no one dared ask, "What are you doing?" or, "Why are you talking with her?"

²⁸The woman took her jar. She went back to town. She told the men,²⁹ "Come meet this guy! He told me all about everything that I ever did. This guy might be the messiah."

³⁰So, they left the town. They went out to meet him.

³¹Meanwhile, his disciples pulled him aside. "Rabbi, you need to eat."

³²He told them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."

³³The disciples discussed it with each other, "Did someone else bring him something to eat?"

³⁴Jesus said, "My food is doing what the one who sent me wants. I will finish the job."

³⁵"You think that it is harvest time in four months, right? Look, I tell you what. Open your eyes. Look at the fields. They are ready for harvest right now.³⁶ The reaper gets paid. He picks fruit that brings life forever. So, both the sower and reaper are happy together.³⁷ This is the meaning of the true saying: 'Some sow and others reap.'³⁸ I sent you to reap what you did not work for. Others do the work. You get the benefit."

³⁹A lot of Samaritans from the town believed in him. It was because of the woman's report, "He told me all about everything that I had done."

⁴⁰The Samaritans came to see him. They asked him to visit with them. So, he stayed for two days. ⁴¹Because of the things he said, even more people believed. ⁴²They told the woman, "We do not believe because of what you said anymore. We heard for ourselves. Now we are certain that he really is the savior of the world."

⁴³So, after two days, he left that place. He went to Galilee.

⁴⁴Jesus himself said that a prophet does not get respect in his own area. ⁴⁵So, he came into Galilee. Some of the Galileans brought attention to him. They saw everything that he did in Jerusalem during the festival because they were also present at the festival.

There is a royal official from Capernaum.

⁴⁶He went back to Cana in Galilee. This is where he turned water into wine. There was a royal official from Capernaum. His son was sick. ⁴⁷He heard that Jesus had left Judah and came into Galilee. So, he went to see him. He asked Jesus to come and heal his son. His son was near death.

⁴⁸Jesus told him, "If you do not see a miracle or omen, then you will never believe."

⁴⁹The father said, "Sir, come down before my son dies."

⁵⁰So, Jesus said, "Go on. Your son is going to live."

The man believed what Jesus said. So, he left. ⁵¹His servant was already on the way there. He met him. He told him that the child was going to live. ⁵²The official questioned him. He wanted to know the precise time he became well.

He told him, "Yesterday, the fever went away at about seven o'clock."

⁵³The father remembered. This was exactly when Jesus said, "Your son is going to live." So, he believed. His entire household also believed.

⁵⁴This is the second time Jesus performed a miracle after he left Judah and came into Galilee.

A sick man is at the pool.

⁵Another Jewish festival came after this. So, Jesus went back up to Jerusalem. There was a pool in Jerusalem. It was near the *Sheep Gate*. (In Aramaic, it was called *Beth-Zatha*.) It was surrounded by five large

covered areas. Many of the sick, blind, crippled, and maimed sat around the pool.^a

One sick man had been there for thirty-eight years. Jesus saw him. He was lying there. He found out that the man had been there for a long time. So, he asked him. “Do you want to get well?”

The sick man said, “Sir, I do not have anyone to put me in the water when it stirs. By the time I get there, someone else has already gone before me.”

Jesus said, “Get up. Pick up your cot. Then walk.” At that moment, the man became well. He picked up his cot. Then he walked.

Now, this particular day was the Sabbath. The Jewish leaders told the guy who had been healed, “This is the Sabbath. You are not allowed to pick up your cot.”

He answered them. “This fellow made me well. He told me, ‘Pick up your cot. Then walk.’”

They wanted to know. “Who is this man that told you, ‘Pick it up and walk?’” The healed man did not know. Jesus had slipped off into the crowd.

Later on, Jesus found the man in the temple. “Hey, you are well now. Stop sinning. Otherwise, something worse might happen to you.”

So, the man went back to the Jewish leaders. He reported to them that it was Jesus who made him well. He did this on the Sabbath. The Jewish leaders began to pursue Jesus.

He called God his own father!

Jesus answered them. “My father has been busy. He worked right up to this moment. Now I work, too.”

This made them want to kill him even more. He not only broke the Sabbath. He called God his own father! He made himself the same as God.

Then Jesus spoke to them. “I guarantee you this: The son cannot do anything by himself. He only does what he saw the father do. Whatever the father does, the son does the same thing. The father loves the son. He shows him everything that he is doing. He is going to show him even

a) Earlier and more reliable manuscripts omit 5:4.

greater things than this. This will shock you. The father raises the dead. He can make people alive. Similarly, the son of man can create life when he wants to.”

“The father is not judging anyone. He gave the power to judge to the son. That way everyone will honor the son, just like they honor the father. If anyone does not honor the son, then he does not honor the father who sent him.”

“I guarantee you this, too: If anyone who hears my words, and believes the one who sent me, then he will live forever. No harm will come to him. He will avoid death. He will live.”

“I guarantee you this: A time is coming, and it is right now. The dead will hear the voice of the son of God. They will come alive. The father possesses life within himself. Similarly, he will give life to the son. The son will have it for himself. He gave the son authority to make judgments. He is the son of man.”

“Do not be shocked about it. A time is coming. People in the tombs will hear his voice. Those who did good things will be resurrected into life. Those who did evil will be resurrected into judgment.”

“I cannot do anything by myself. I call it just like I heard it. I do not seek my own wishes. I seek the wishes of the one who sent me. If I report about myself, then my report is false. Someone else reports about me. I am sure that his report about me is true.”

“You folks sent for John. He told you the truth. I do not accept human reports. However, I am telling you. Then you can be safe. He was the lamp that burned and shined. You should have enjoyed the time you spent in his light. I have a better report than John. The father gave me a job to do. I will finish it. John reported about the things that I do. The father sent me. The same father who sent me is the one who reports about me. You have never heard his voice. You have never seen him. His word does not stick with you. You do not believe in the one he sent. You search the scriptures. You think they contain life forever. Well, they report about me. You do not want to come to me. Then you might get life.”

“I do not get respect from people. However, I know you. You do not have the love of God in you. I came in my father’s name. Still, you did not accept me. If someone comes in his own name, then you accept him.

How can you believe? You only accept respect from each other. Will you not seek respect from the only God?”

“Do not think that I accuse you before the father. Your accuser is Moses. You hope in him! If you really believed Moses, then you would believe me. He wrote about me. You do not believe those scriptures. How are you going to believe my words?”

There is a boy with loaves and fish.

⁶Later on, Jesus crossed Lake Galilee (that is, Lake Tiberias). Huge crowds followed him. They saw the miracle that he performed on the sick man. Jesus climbed the mountain. He sat down with his disciples. It was about time for the Jewish Passover festival.

Jesus opened his eyes. He saw that huge crowds came to see him. So, he asked Philip. “Where can we buy food to feed these people?” (He only said this to test Philip. He already knew what he was going to do.)

Philip responded. “Two hundred days pay will not buy enough bread. Each person will only have a small amount.”

One of his other disciples—Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother—said, “There is a boy over there with five barley loaves and two fish. How is that going to be enough for all these people?”

Jesus said, “Sit all the men down.” (There was a big field there. The total number of people was about five thousand.)

Jesus took the bread. He gave thanks. Then he give some to everyone sitting there. He did the same with the fish. They were full. He told his disciples, “Collect the leftovers. Do not let anything spoil.”

So, they did. They filled twelve baskets of pieces. They were leftovers of the five barley loaves.

The people saw him perform the miracle. They said, “He really is a prophet. He came into the world.”

Jesus could tell that they wanted to take him away. They wanted make him king. So, he went back to the mountain. He wanted to be alone.

A huge storm is brewing.

That evening his disciples went down to the lake. They got in the boat. They crossed the lake to Capernaum. It was already dark. Jesus was not with them. A huge storm was brewing. The lake got rough. They rowed

out about four or five kilometers. Then they saw Jesus walking on the lake!

He came near the boat. It really scared them. He told them, "It is me! Do not be scared."

They wanted to let him in the boat. However, the boat arrived at shore too quickly.

I am the bread of life.

The next day, the crowd was on the other side of the lake. They noticed that all the boats were gone, except for one. However, Jesus was not with the disciples in that boat. The disciples left alone.

Some other boats came from Tiberias. They landed near the place where they ate the bread after the lord gave thanks. The crowds noticed. Neither Jesus nor his disciples were there. So, they got in another boat. They headed for Capernaum. They looked for Jesus. They found him across the lake. So, they asked, "Rabbi, how did you get over here?"

Jesus answered. "I guarantee you this: You did not look for me because you saw a miracle. You wanted something to eat. You were satisfied. Do not make bread that spoils. Make bread that lasts forever. The son of man will give it to you. God is the father. He marked him with a seal."

They asked him. "How are we supposed to do God's work?"

"This is God's work: Believe in the one he sent."

They said, "What miracle are you going to perform? We will believe in you when we see it. What are you going to do? Our fathers ate manna in the desert. Just like it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'^a"

Jesus said, "I guarantee you this: Moses did not give you bread from heaven. It was my father. He gave you the true bread from heaven. God's bread falls from heaven. He gives life to the world."

They said to him, "Sir. Give us this bread permanently."

"I am the bread of life. The one who comes to me will never hunger. The one who believes in me will never thirst. I already told you: You can see. However, you still do not believe. Everyone the father gives to me comes to me. The one who comes to me will not be discarded."

a) Psalm 78:24.

“I did not descend from heaven to do my own will. I came to do the will of the one who sent me. This is his will: I will not ruin anyone that he gave me. I will raise him on the last day. This is my father’s will. Everyone who both sees the son, and also believes in him, will have life forever. I will raise him on the last day.”

The Jewish leaders complained about his statement, “I am the bread of life that descends from heaven.”

So, they asked, “Is he not Jesus? Is he not the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? How can he claim, ‘I descended from heaven?’”

Jesus responded. “Do not grumble with each other. No one can come to me unless the father, who sent me, drags him. I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the prophets. ‘Everyone will be taught by God.’^a”

“Everyone who both listens, and also learns from the father, comes to me. No one can see the father, except the one who is with God. He does see the father. I guarantee you this: The person who believes has eternal life.”

“I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate manna in the desert. They still died. This is the bread that descends from heaven. Whoever eats it will not die. I am the bread of life that descends from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, then he will live forever. The bread that I give is my body. I give it for the life of the world.”

The Jewish leaders argued between themselves. “How can this guy give us his body to eat?”

Jesus said, “I guarantee you this: Unless you both eat the body of the son of man, and also drink his blood, then you all will not live. Anyone who both chews my body, and also drinks my blood, will live forever. I will raise him on the last day. My body is real food. It is real drink. The person who both chews my body, and also drinks my blood, will stick with me. I will stick with him. The living father sent me. I live through him. Similarly, the person who chews me will also live through me.”

“This is the bread that falls from heaven. It is not like what your fathers ate. They still died. The person who chews this bread will live forever.”

a) Jeremiah 31:33.

Jesus knows his disciples are grumbling.

Jesus knew his disciples were grumbling about these things. They heard these things. A bunch of his disciples said, "These statements are extreme. Can anyone put up with them?" Jesus knew his disciples were grumbling about these things.

So, he said, "Do these statements make you struggle? Can you picture the son of man ascend back where he came from? The spirit gives life. The body is not willing at all. The things I told you are spirit and life. There are still some of you who do not believe."

From the start, Jesus knew some did not believe. He knew one would betray him. So, he said, "That is why I told you: No one can come to me unless the father lets him."

After this, many of his disciples left him. They returned home. They no longer traveled with him.

Jesus spoke to the twelve. "Would you like to go, too?"

Simon Peter said, "Lord, who can we go to? You have the words of life. We believe. We even know. You are God's holy one."

Jesus responded. "Did I not choose you twelve? Still, one of you is a devil." (He was talking about Judas, son of Simon from Iscariot. He was one of the twelve. However, he planned to betray Jesus.)

It is time for the Festival of Tents.

⁷After this, Jesus traveled to Galilee. He did not want to go to Judah. The Jewish leaders planned to execute him. It was about time for the Jewish Festival of Tents. His brothers told him, "Cross over there. Go to Judah. Then your disciples can see the things you do. No one who wants to be a public figure operates in secret. This is how you operate. Show yourself to the world." (None of his brothers really believed in him.)

Jesus told them, "It is not my time yet. For you, any time is right. The world does not hate you. Well, it does hate me. I tell them that their actions are evil. You go ahead to the festival. I am not going to this festival. It is not the right time."

After saying this, he stayed in Galilee. His brothers left for the festival. Then he went privately. He did not go publicly.

The Jewish leaders looked for him during the festival. "Where is that guy?"

Lots of people argued about him. Some said, "He is a good man." Others said, "No, he tricks people." No one spoke publicly about him. They were afraid of what the Jewish leaders might do.

The festival started. Jesus arrived. He came to the temple area. He started teaching. The Jewish leaders were amazed. "How does this guy know about legal matters without training?"

Jesus answered. "My teaching is not mine. It belongs to the one who sent me. If I implement my own plan, then it can be demonstrated whether my teaching is from God, or just from myself. The one who speaks from his own self seeks his own glory. The one who seeks the glory from the one who sent him is honest. He is not unjust."

"Did Moses not give us the law? None of you produced the law. Then why are you trying to execute me?"

The people said, "You must have a demon. Who is trying to execute you?"

Jesus responded, "I did one thing. All of you are amazed. This is why Moses gave you circumcision. It is not actually from Moses. It is from the ancients. You circumcise people on the Sabbath. When a man is circumcised on the Sabbath, he is not breaking the law of Moses. So, why are you angry at me? Is it for curing an entire person on the Sabbath? Stop judging just by appearance. Make a fair judgment."

Some Jerusalem citizens spoke up. "Is this not the guy they want to execute? He is speaking publicly. No one says anything about it. Is it possible that the authorities believe that he really is the messiah? We know the origin of this fellow. When the messiah comes, no one will know where he comes from."

Jesus was in the temple area teaching. He shouted. "You know me. You know where I come from. I did not get here by myself. The one who sent me is legitimate. You do not know him. I do know him. I came from him. He sent me."

They wanted to arrest him. However, they could not get their hands on him. It was not his time yet. A lot of the people in the crowd believed in him. They said, "When the messiah comes, will he not perform a lot of miracles? They will be like the ones he does."

The Pharisees overheard the people debating about him. So, the high priests and Pharisees sent deputies to arrest him.

In response, Jesus said, “I am going to be with you for just a little while longer. Then I am going back to the one who sent me. You can look for me. You will not find me. You cannot come where I am going.”

The Jewish leaders said to each other, “Where is he going? Why will we not find him? Is he going to travel everywhere the Greeks are dispersed? Is he going to start teaching the Greeks? What is he talking about when he says this? ‘Look for me. You will not find me. You cannot come where I am going.’”

On the last day of the great festival, Jesus stood up. He shouted. “If anyone is thirsty, then he may come to me and drink. It is just like the scriptures say. ‘Anyone who believes in me will drink from the streams of running water. They come from within.’^a”

He was talking about the spirit. He will give it to those who believe in him. The spirit had not been given yet. Jesus’ full glory had not been revealed yet.

People in the crowd heard these things. They said, “This guy really is a prophet.” Others thought, “He is the messiah.” Some other people said, “The messiah is not supposed to come from Galilee, is he? Do not the scriptures say that the messiah is supposed to be a descendant of David? Doesn’t he come from the village of Beth-Lehem? That is David’s hometown.”

There were arguments in the crowd about all these things. There were those who wanted to arrest him. They could not get their hands on him.

The deputies returned to the high priests and Pharisees. The Jewish leaders asked, “Why did you not bring him in?”

The deputies answered, “No one ever talked like this guy.”

The Pharisees said, “Have you been fooled, too? You do not think any of the rulers or Pharisees are going to believe in him, do you? The common man does not know the law. They are cursed.”

Nicodemus was one of them. (He had visited Jesus earlier.) He spoke up. “Can the law judge someone unless he has spoken in his own defense? Then the sequence of events can be known.”

They answered him. “You are not one of the Galileans, are you? Look for yourself. You will discover that the prophet does not rise from Galilee.”^b

a) Proverbs 18:4.

b) Earlier and more reliable manuscripts omit the narrative about the adulterous woman (7:53-8:11).

⁸Jesus answered them again. “I am the light of the world. The one who follows me will never walk in darkness. Instead, he will have the light of the world.”

The Pharisees said to him, “You report about yourself. Your report is not true.”

Jesus responded, “I might report about myself. However, my report is still true. I know where I came from. I know where I am going. You do not know where I come from. You do not know where I am going. You judge by physical standards. I do not judge anybody. If I did judge, then my decision would be accurate. It is not my judgment alone. It belongs to the father who sent me. In our law it is written, ‘The report of two men is valid.’^a”

They asked him. “Who is your father?”

“You do not know me. You do not know my father. If you knew me, then you would know my father.”

He spoke these things at the offering-box. He was teaching in the temple area. No one arrested him. It was not his time yet. He spoke again, “I am going to leave. Then you will try to find me. This is because you are dead in your sin. You cannot come where I am going.”

The Jewish leaders said, “Is he going to kill himself? Is that what he means by, ‘You cannot come where I am going?’”

So, he told them. “You are from below. I am from above. You are from this world. I am not from this world. I told you that you were dead in your sins. You do not believe that I am the one. So, you are dead in your sins.”

They responded, “Then who are you?”

“Did I not answer this from the beginning? I have lots of things to say. I judge you. The one who sent me is true. What I heard from him I am going to tell to the world.” (They did not understand what he meant when he referred to the father.)

So, Jesus told them. “When you lift up the son of man, then you will know that I am him. I cannot do anything by myself. I speak about things just like the father told me. The one who sent me is on my side. He did not leave me alone. I always do what he wants.”

a) Deuteronomy 19:15.

Some Jews believe in him.

After this, many people believed in him. Jesus spoke to the Jews who had believed in him. “If you keep my words, then you are really my disciples. You will know the truth. The truth will free you.”

They responded, “We are Abraham’s descendants. We have never been slaves to anyone. How can you say, ‘You will be set free?’”

“I guarantee you this: Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. A slave does not live in the house for good. A son does. If the son sets you free, then you are definitely free.”

“I am aware that you are Abraham’s descendants. However, you are still trying to kill me. You do not accept my words. I talk about what my father showed me. You do what your father showed you.”

They said, “Our father is Abraham.”

“If you are Abraham’s children, then you should act like Abraham. However, you are still trying to kill me. I am the man who told you the truth. I heard it from God. Abraham would not do this. You act like your father.”

They said, “We were not born illegitimately. We have one father—God.”

“If God was your father, then you should love me. I came from God. I am going back. I did not send myself. He sent me. Why can’t you understand what I am talking about? Because you can’t listen to my words.”

“You come from your father. He is the devil. You want to do his will. He was a murderer from the beginning. He cannot stand the truth. There is not a bit of truth in him. His normal method is to tell lies. He is both a liar and the father of liars.”

“Even though I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Who has convicted me of evil? If I tell you the truth, then why will not you believe me? Anyone from God hears what God says. You do not listen. You are not from God.”

The Jewish leaders spoke up. “Are we not right? You are a Samaritan. You have a demon.”

Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon. I honor my father. You dishonor me. I do not seek my own honor. The one who seeks also judges. I guarantee you this: The one who keeps my words will never, ever die.”

The Jewish leaders said, "Now we definitely know you have a demon. Abraham and the prophets are dead. You said, 'If you keep my words, then you will never, ever taste death.' Are you greater than father Abraham? He died. The prophets are dead. Who do you think you are?"

Jesus answered, "If I were to honor myself, then my glory would mean nothing. My father honored me. You say, 'He is our God.' You do not know him. I do know him. If I said that I did not, then I would be a liar like you. I do know him. I do keep his word. Your father, Abraham, would have been glad to be alive in my time. He saw me. It did make him happy."

The Jewish leaders said, "You are not even fifty years old. How did you meet Abraham?"

"Let me put it like this: Before Abraham was, I am."

They picked up rocks to throw at him. Jesus hid. Then he left the temple area.

There is a blind man.

⁹Later, he was passing by. He saw a man who was blind from birth.

His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned? Whose fault is it that he was born blind? Was it him or his parents?"

Jesus answered, "It was not his sin. It was not his parents' sin. However, God demonstrates his ability through him. You have to understand. I do what he sent me to do during the day. When it is night, no one will be able to do what I do. I live in the world. However, I am still the light of the world."

After saying this, he spit on the ground. He made some mud from the spit. He spread this mud on the man's eyes. He said, "Go. Wash yourself in the *Siloam* pool." (Translated, this means the *Sending* pool.) So, the man left. He washed. Afterwards he could see!

His neighbors and people familiar with him knew that he was a beggar. They said, "Is this not the man who sits on the ground and begs?" Some other people acknowledged, "Yes, that is him." Still, some other people said, "No, it just looks like him."

So, the blind man responded, "It is me."

They asked him, "How is it that your eyes are open?"

He answered, "This man, called Jesus, made some mud. Then he rubbed it on my eyes. He told me, 'Get into the Siloam pool. Wash yourself.' So, I went. I washed. Then I could see."

They asked him, "Where is that man now?"

"I do not know," he answered.

Some of them took the blind guy to see the Pharisees. It was the Sabbath. This was same day that Jesus put the mud on him. He opened his eyes. So, those people and the Pharisees asked him again. "How is it that you can see again?"

"Well, he put mud in my eye. Then I washed. Afterwards I could see."

One of the Pharisees said, "This man did not act according to God. He did not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How could a sinful man perform such a miracle?" They were divided about it.

They asked the blind man another question. "Why do you talk about that guy? Is it because he opened your eyes?"

He answered, "It is because he is a prophet."

The Jewish leaders did not accept that he was blind before, and that now he could see. So, they summoned the blind man's parents. They questioned them, "He is your son. Do you claim that he was born blind? How is that he can see now?"

His parents responded, "We are certain that he is our son. He was born blind. We have no idea how he can see now. Ask him. He is an adult. He can speak for himself." (His parents answered this way because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. The Jewish leaders had already decided. Anyone who confessed that he was the messiah would get kicked out of the synagogue.) This is why his parents said, "He is an adult. Ask him."

So, they summoned the blind man a second time. "Give glory to God. We all know that guy is a sinner."

Then he answered, "I have no idea whether he is a sinner. There is one thing that I do know. At one point I was blind. I can see now."

They said, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

"I already told you. You did not believe me. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?"

Then they really gave him some abuse. "You are a disciple of that guy. We are disciples of Moses. We know that God spoke to Moses. We do not know where that guy came from."

The man answered. "This is incredible. You do not know where he came from. However, he opened my eyes! We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the person who is both godly and also does his will. Never has anyone heard of a person—born blind—whose eyes became open. If this was not from God, then it would not have happened."

They responded, "You were born completely in sin. Are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they threw him out. So, he found him. "Do you believe in the son of man?"

"Who is he, sir? Tell me. Then I will believe in him."

Jesus said, "The person you are looking at is him. The one speaking with you is the one."

"I believe, lord." Then the man bowed down to him.

Jesus said, "I came into the world to judge. The ones who cannot see, will see. The ones that can see, will become blind."

Some of the Pharisees heard these things. These people were with Jesus. They said, "You are not suggesting that we are blind, are you?"

Jesus said, "If you were blind, then you would have no sin. Instead you claim that you can see. That is why you are stuck in your sin."

I am the good shepherd.

¹⁰"I guarantee you this: Neither a thief nor a robber comes into the sheep pen through the gate. He climbs in some other way."

"The shepherd of the flock enters through the gate. The gatekeeper opens it for him. The sheep recognize his voice. He calls each sheep by name. Then he leads them out. After each one is out, he walks ahead of them. They follow because they recognize his voice. A stranger can never lead them. They will run away from him. They are not familiar with the stranger's voice." (Jesus used figures of speech when he spoke to them. They had no idea what he was talking about.)

So, Jesus continued on. "I guarantee you this: I am the sheep gate. All the others who came were thieves and robbers. The sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe. He will come in. Or, he will go out. Then he will find the pasture."

"The thief does not come except to steal, kill, and destroy. I am here so that they can have life. They will have lots of life."

“I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays his own life down for the sheep. The hired hand is not like the shepherd. The sheep do not belong to him. When he sees a wolf coming, he will abandon the sheep. He will run away. Then the wolf will capture the sheep. He will scatter their remains. The hired hand is not all that concerned about the sheep.”

“I am the good shepherd. I know who belongs to me. They know me. In the same way, the father knows me. I know the father. I lay my life down for the sheep. I also have some other sheep that are not in this sheep pen. This is why I had to come. The sheep that belong to me hear my voice. There will be one flock and one shepherd.”

“This is why the father loved me. I lay my life down. I get it back again. No one can take away it from me. I lay it down on purpose. I have the power to lay my life down. I also have the power to pick it back up again. These are the orders I got from my father.”

Because of these words, another argument broke out among the Jewish leaders. Many of them said, “He has a demon. He is crazy. Did you hear what he said?” Others said, “These are not the words of a demon-possessed man. What demon can open a blind man’s eyes?”

It is time for the Festival of Lights.

Then it was time for Festival of Lights in Jerusalem. It was winter. Jesus went into the temple area near Solomon’s covered area.

The Jewish leaders surrounded him. They said, “How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the messiah, then say so. Say it out in the open.”

Jesus answered, “I did tell you. You did not believe me. I do things in my father’s name. He confirms these things about me. Still you do not believe. That is because you are not my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them. They follow me. I give them life forever. They will not be destroyed in eternity. No one can take them from my hand. My father is greater than everyone. He gave them to me. No one else can take them from the father’s hand. The father and I are one.”

At this, the Jewish leaders again picked up rocks to stone him.

Jesus responded, “I have shown you many good things from the father. Which of them makes you want to stone me?”

The Jewish leaders said, "It is not good things that make us want to stone you. It is that you slander God. You are just a man. You try to make yourself into God."

Jesus responded, "Is this not written in the law? 'I said, You are gods?'^a He said those who have God's word are gods. It is impossible for the scriptures to be broken."

"So, God set him apart. He sent him into the world. How can you say, 'You slander God?' All I said was, 'I am the son of God.' If I do not act like my father, then do not believe me. Even if I do, then you might not believe in me. At least believe in my actions. Then you can know. Know this: The father is in me. I am in him."

They tried to grab him again. They wanted to arrest him. He slipped out of their hands.

There is a sick man named Lazarus.

So, he went back to the other side of the Jordan. This is the place where John immersed at first. He stayed there for a while. Many people came to him. They commented that John did not perform any miracles. However, everything that John had said about him was true. Many people believed in him at that place.

¹¹There was a sick man named Lazarus. He was from Bethany. This is the town of Miriam and Martha. They were sisters. Miriam was the one who poured perfume on the lord. She wiped his feet with her hair. Lazarus, her brother, was the one who was sick. The sisters sent a message to Jesus. "Sir, your friend is really sick."

When Jesus heard this, he said, "This sickness is not fatal. It will honor God. The son of God will be honored by it."

Jesus was fond of Miriam, her sister, and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he decided to stay with them for a couple of days. After this, he told his disciples, "Let's go back to Judah."

His disciples said, "Rabbi, the Jewish leaders are looking for you. They want to stone you right now. Are you sure that you want to go back there?"

a) Psalm 82:6.

Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in a day? If a person travels in the daytime, then he will not fall down. He can see by the light of this world. If he travels at night, then he will fall down. He has no light."

He said these things at one point. Later he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep. I am going there to wake him up."

The disciples said, "Sir, if he is just asleep, then he will be fine." (Jesus was talking about his death. They thought he was talking about sleeping in the bed.)

So, Jesus spoke more clearly. "Lazarus is dead. I am glad for your sake. I am glad that you believe, even though we were not there. Now we can go to him."

Thomas, named the Twin, spoke to his fellow disciples. "Let's go there. Then we can die with Lazarus."

By the time Jesus got there, he discovered that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was only about three kilometers from Jerusalem. Many Jewish people came to visit Martha and Miriam to console them about their brother. Martha heard that Jesus was coming. She went out to meet him. Miriam stayed in the house.

Martha said to Jesus, "Sir, if you had been there, then my brother would not have died. I know now that if you ask God for anything, then he will give it to you."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will get up."

Martha said, "I know that he will get up in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection. I am the life. Although anyone who believes in me might die, he will live. Everyone who both lives in me, and believes in me, will never, ever die. Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, sir. I already believe that you are the messiah. You are the son of God. You are the one who comes into the world."

After they talked, she left. She called her sister, Miriam. She spoke with her privately, "The teacher came. He asked for you." When Miriam heard this, she got up quickly to meet him. Jesus had not arrived in town yet. He was still in the place where Martha met him.

The Jewish people were still with Miriam in the house. They were there so that they could comfort her. They noticed that she got up quickly. Then she left. They followed her. They expected her to go to the tomb so that

she could cry. Miriam arrived at the place where Jesus was. She went to him. She fell down at his feet. She said to him, "Sir, if you had been there, then my brother would not have died."

Jesus saw that she was crying. The Jewish people were crying with her. His heart was moved. It disturbed him. So, he said, "Where did you put him?"

They said, "Sir. Come and see."

Jesus cried. The Jewish people said, "Look at how much he loved him."

A few of them said, "He is the guy that made the blind man's eyes open. Can he make him not dead?"

Jesus was moved again when he arrived at the tomb. There was a chamber with a rock set over it. Jesus said, "Move the stone."

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said, "Sir, it will stink. It has already been four days."

Jesus said, "Did I not tell you? If you believe, then you will see God's glory." So, they moved the stone.

Jesus looked up. He said, "Father, I am grateful that you hear me. I know that you always listen to me. Because of the crowds standing here, I speak out loud. That way, they will believe that you sent me."

Then, in a loud voice, he shouted. "Lazarus, come out!"

Then the dead man came out. His hands and feet were bound in burial cloths. His head was wrapped in a head cloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him. Let him go."

The high priests call a council meeting.

Many of the Jewish people who went to visit Miriam saw what he did. They believed in him. Some of them left. They went to the Pharisees. They told the Pharisees what Jesus did.

The high priests and Pharisees called a council meeting. They said, "What are we going to do about this guy? He performs all these miracles. If we let him get away with it, then everyone will believe in him. The Romans will come. They will conquer us, this place, and our nation."

One of them was named Kaiaphas. He was the high priest for that year. He said, "You do not know anything! Do you not realize that it is better for us that one man die for the people? Then the whole nation will not be destroyed."

He was not just speaking for himself. He was the high priest for that year. So, he was foretelling that Jesus was going to die for the people. Jesus would not die just for the people. It was also to collect all the scattered children of God into one people. From that day forward, they plotted to kill him.

Jesus did not walk around publicly among the Jewish people any more. He left that place. He went to another place near the wilderness. It was the town called Ephraim. He stayed there with his disciples.

Miriam pours perfume on Jesus.

It was about time for the Jewish Passover festival. Many traveled up to Jerusalem from the countryside. Then they could purify themselves prior to the festival.

They looked around for Jesus. They discussed him among themselves while standing in the temple area. "What do you think about him? Do you expect that he will show up at the festival?"

The high priests and Pharisees issued orders. If anyone knows his location, then they must disclose it. The leaders will arrest him.

¹²It was six days before Passover. Jesus went to Bethany. This is where Lazarus lived. Jesus had raised him from the dead. They prepared a banquet for him there. Martha served the food. Lazarus was among the people sitting at the table with Jesus.

Miriam poured an entire bottle of expensive perfume oil on Jesus' feet. Then she used her hair to wipe his feet. The house was full of the smell of perfume.

(Judas from Iscariot was one of his disciples. He also later betrayed Jesus.) Judas said, "Did that perfume not cost a year's wages? We could sell it. Then we could use the money for the poor!" (He did not say this because he was actually interested in the poor. It was because he was a thief. He was the one who took care of the money bag where they kept contributions.)

Jesus told him, "Leave her alone. She kept the perfume for my funeral burial. You will always have poor people with you. You will not always have me."

The high priests plot to kill Lazarus.

Large numbers of Jewish people knew that he was there. They did not come just because of Jesus. They also came to see Lazarus. They knew that he came back from the dead. Meanwhile, the high priests also plotted to kill Lazarus. They thought that many Jewish people were lead astray because of Lazarus. He caused those people to believe in Jesus.

Jesus enters Jerusalem.

The next day, large crowds came to the festival. They heard that Jesus is entering Jerusalem. They took down branches from palm trees. They went out to meet him. They were shouting,

Please save us!

The blessed one comes in the lord's name.

He is the king of Israel.^a

Jesus located a donkey. Then he sat on it. Just like it is written,

Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look! Your king is coming.

He is riding on a donkey colt.^b

(The disciples did not understand all these things when it happened. Later, after Jesus was honored, they remembered the things written about him. They remembered what he did.)

Some of the crowd was present when he called Lazarus out of the tomb. They reported that he raised Lazarus from the dead. Because of this, many other people came out to meet him. They heard about the miracle he performed.

The Pharisees debated between themselves. "Look at that! You have accomplished nothing. The entire world went out to see this guy."

The son of man is honored.

There were some Gentiles. They went up to worship at the festival. They approached Philip. He was from Beth-Zada in Galilee.

They requested, "Sir, we would like to meet Jesus."

Philip left. He told Andrew. Then they both left. They told Jesus.

a) Psalm 118:25-26.

b) Zechariah 9:9.

Jesus answered, “The time is coming when the son of man will be honored. I guarantee you this: Unless a grain of wheat falls down and dies, then it stays just a seed. However, if it does die, then it can bear lots of produce. The person who loves his life will destroy it. If he hates his life in this world, then he will preserve it. He will have life forever. Anyone who wants to serve me has to follow me. Wherever I am, my servant will be there, too. When someone serves me, the father will honor him.”

“I am upset right now. What am I supposed to say? ‘Father, save me from this moment?’ This is why I got to this point! Father, honor your name.”

Then a voice came from the sky, “I already did. I will do it again.”

Some of the crowd standing there thought they heard thunder. Others said, “An angel just spoke to him.”

Jesus responded, “This voice did not come for me. It came for you. Now judgment has come against the world. The ruler of the world has been thrown out. When I am lifted up, I will draw everyone to me.” (He said this to signal how he was going to die.)

The crowd responded, “We heard in the law that the messiah lives forever. What do you mean when you say, ‘The son of man has to be lifted up?’ Who is this ‘son of man?’ ”

Jesus told them, “You only have the light with you for a little while. Walk like there is light. Then darkness will not overtake you. The person who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. Since you have the light, believe in the light. Then you will be sons of light.”

Jesus said these things. Then he left. He hid in a secret place by himself. He performed lots of miracles in their presence. They still did not believe in him. This happened to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet,

Lord, who believed our message?

Who did the lord reveal his arm to?^a

This is why they cannot believe. Isaiah said in another place,

Their eyes are blinded—

Their hearts are hardened.

They will not see with their eyes—

They will not understand with their hearts—

a) Isaiah 53:1.

They will not change.
Otherwise I would heal them.^a

Isaiah said these things because he knew Jesus would be honored. He was speaking about him.

There is a judge.

Many of the leaders believed in him. They would not openly admit it because of the Pharisees. They did not want the Pharisees to kick them out of the synagogue. They preferred to be honored by men more than God.

Jesus spoke out loud. "Anyone who believes in me does not really believe in me. He believes in the one who sent me. The one who sees me actually sees the one who sent me. I am the light that comes into the world. Everyone who believes in me is not stuck in the darkness."

"I do not judge anyone who listens to my words, but does not keep them. I did not come to judge the world. I came to save it. There is a judge for the one who both ignores me and also does not accept my words. My words will judge him on the last day."

"I do not speak by myself. I say and speak what the father, who sent me, orders me to say. I am sure that his commands lead to life forever. So, that is what I say. I speak like the father told me."

Jesus meets with the twelve.

Jesus washes his disciples' feet.

¹³The Passover festival was about to start. Jesus knew that his time had come. He was going to leave this world and go to the father. He loved those in the world that belonged to him. He loved them completely. It was about time for dinner. The devil had already entered the heart of Judas, son of Simon from Iscariot. He was going to betray Jesus.

Jesus knew that God put everything in his hand. He knew that he came from God. He knew that he was going to return to God. At this point, he got up from the dinner. He took off his clothes. He tied a cloth around himself. He put some water in a bowl. He began to wash his

a) Isaiah 6:10.

disciples' feet. He wiped their feet. He used the cloth that was around his waist. He came to Simon Peter.

Peter said, "Lord, are you planning on washing my feet?"

Jesus answered, "You do not understand what I am about to do. You will understand later."

Peter said, "You will never, ever wash my feet."

"If I do not wash you, then you will have nothing to do with me."

"Lord! Okay, then do not just wash my feet. Wash my hands and my head, too!"

"Anyone who just took a bath only needs to wash his feet. He is already completely clean. So, you are clean. However, not everyone is clean." (He already knew about the one who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not everybody is clean.")

He finished washing the disciples' feet. He put his clothes back on. Then he sat down again.

He asked them, "Do you understand what I just did? You refer to me as teacher and lord. It is good that you do. That is what I am. If the lord and teacher washes your feet, then you should wash each other's feet. I gave you an example to follow. I did it for you. You should do it for each other. Let me put it like this: No slave is better than his master. No messenger is better than the one who sent him. If you understand this, then things will go well for you."

One of you will betray me.

"I am not talking about all of you. I know who I chose. However, this is so that the scripture can be fulfilled,"

He eats bread with me. He lifted his heel against me.^a

I am telling you this now before it happens. You will believe it when it does happen. I am the one. I guarantee you this: If someone accepts the one I sent, then he accepts me. If someone accepts me, then they also accept the one who sent me."

While Jesus said these things, he was emotionally troubled. He admitted it. He said, "I guarantee you this: There is one of you that is going to betray me."

a) Psalm 41:9/

The disciples looked at each other. They had no idea who he was referring to. One of the disciples sitting there was leaning up against Jesus' chest. He was the one that Jesus loved. Simon Peter nodded toward him. He was suggesting that this is who he was referring to. The one leaning against Jesus' chest said, "Lord, who is it?"

Jesus answered, "I will dip the bread. Then I will give it to him. He is the one."

Then he dipped the bread. He gave it to Judas, son of Simon from Iscariot. After he dipped the bread, the opponent entered him.

Jesus told him, "Do what you are going to do. Do it right away."

No one sitting there knew what he was talking about. Judas took care of the finances. So, some of them thought that maybe Jesus was giving him instructions. "Buy whatever we need for the festival," or, "Give something to the poor."

So, Judas took the piece of bread. He left right away. This happened at night.

You will deny me.

After he left, Jesus said, "Now the son of man has been honored. God has been honored through him. God will honor the son by himself. He will be honored really soon. Children, I am only going to be with you a little while longer. You will look for me. I told the Jewish leaders, 'Where I am going you cannot go.' I am telling you the same thing now."

"I am giving you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other, just like I loved you. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples: You must show love to each other."

Simon Peter asked, "Lord, where are you going?"

Jesus answered, "You cannot follow me where I am going right now. You will follow later."

Peter said, "Lord, why can't we follow you now? I will put my life down for you."

"Are you really going to put your life down for me? I guarantee you this: You will deny me three times before the rooster crows."

I leave you in peace.

¹⁴“Do not be upset. Believe in God. Believe in me. My father’s house has many rooms in it. If it did not, then would I tell you that I will prepare a place for you there? When I return, it will be ready. You will go wherever I go. You know the way to get there.”

Thomas asked, “Lord, we do not know how to get there. How are we going to know the way?”

Jesus said, “I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life. No one can get to the father except through me. If you know me, then you know the father. From now on, you know him. You have seen him.”

Philip said, “Lord, show us the father. That will satisfy us.”

Jesus said, “I have been with you for a long time, Philip. Do you not know me? If you see me, then you have seen the father. Why do you say, ‘Show us the father?’ Do you not believe that I am in the father? Do you not know that the father is in me? I do not speak words from my own self. The father stays with me. He does these things. Believe what I say. I am in the father. The father is in me. If you do not believe for this reason, then at least believe because of what he has done.”

“I guarantee you this: The one who believes in me will do the things that I do. He will do even greater things after I go to the father. I will give you whatever you ask in my name. The father will honor the son. I will give you whatever you ask me to do in my name.”

“If you love me, then keep my commands. I will ask the father to give you another helper. He will be with you forever. He is the true spirit. The world cannot accept him. They cannot see him. They cannot understand him. You know him. He stays beside you. He is in you.”

“I am not leaving you as orphans. I will come back to you. In a little while, the world will not see me any more. You will see me. Since I will be alive, you will live. Then you will know that I am in the father. You are in me. I am in you. Anyone who both takes my commands, and also keeps them, loves me. Anyone who loves me, will be loved by my father. I will also love him. I will show myself to him.”

Judas (not Judas from Iscariot) said, “Lord, how do you show yourself to us, but not to the world?”

Jesus answered, "If anyone loves me, then he will keep my word. My father will love him. We will go to him. We will make a home for him. There is one who does not love me. He does not keep my words. The words you hear are not mine. They belong to the father who sent me."

"I told you these things while I am still with you. There is a helper. He is the holy spirit. The father will send him in my name. He will teach you everything. He will remind you about everything I told you."

"I leave you in peace. I give you my peace. The peace I give you is not like the world's peace. Do not be upset in your heart. Do not fear. Listen to what I told you. 'I am leaving. However, I am coming back to you.' You love me. So, you should be happy. I am going to the father. The father is greater than me."

"I am telling you now before it happens. When it happens, you will believe. I am not going to say much to you. The ruler of the world is coming. He has nothing on me. I do exactly like the father tells me. Get up. Let's leave this place."

I am the true vine.

¹⁵"I am the true vine. My father is the farmer. I will remove every branch that does not produce fruit. I prune branches that produce fruit. Then they will produce even more fruit. You are already clean. It is because of the word that I spoke to you."

"Stay with me. I will stay with you. A branch cannot produce fruit by itself. It must stay with the vine. If you do not stay with me, then you cannot produce fruit. I am the vine. You are the branches. I will stay with anyone who stays with me. He will produce plenty of fruit."

"Without me, you cannot do anything. If anyone does not stay with me, then he is like the discarded branch. He will wither. He will be collected. He will be thrown into the fire. Then he will just burn up. If you stick with me, and if my word sticks with you, then you can ask for what you want. You will get it. This is how you honor my father. Produce lots of fruit. Be my disciples."

Love each other.

"I love you, just like the father loves me. Stay in my love. If you keep my commands, then stay in my love. Similarly, I kept my father's commands."

I stay in his love. I have said these things because I am happy with you. You have complete happiness.”

“This is my command: Love each other just like I loved you. There is no better love than this: Lay down your life for your friend. If you do what I command, then you are my friends.”

“I am not calling you slaves any more. A slave does not understand what his master does. I now call you friends. Everything that I heard from my father, I explained to you. You did not choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go. Produce fruit. This fruit must last. Then my father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command to you: Love each other.”

“The world hates you. Well, it hated me first. If you belong to the world, then the world would have loved you. You do not belong to the world. I chose you out of the world. So, the world will hate you. Remember what I told you. A slave is not better than his master. If they harassed me, then they will harass you. If they kept my word, then they will keep yours. They do all these things against you. It is because of my name. They do not know who sent me. If I had not both come, and also if I had not spoke to them, then they would be without sin. Now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me, hates my father.”

“If I had not done things in front of them that no one else could do, then they would be without sin. As it is, they did see them. So, they hate me. They hate my father. The saying in their law needs fulfillment. It is written. ‘They hated me for no reason.’^a”

I will send a helper.

“I will send a helper to you. He is from the father. The helper is the true spirit. He will go out from the father. When he arrives, he will report about me. You can report it, also. You were with me from the beginning.”

¹⁶“I am not trying to shock you with these statements. They are going to expel you from the synagogue. Soon, your murderer will be rewarded because he does special duty for God. Even though they do these things, they do not know the father nor me. I am telling you all this. When the time comes, you will remember that I told you.”

a) Psalm 35:19.

“I did not say all this from the beginning. I had not been with you long enough. Now I have to go back to the one who sent me. None of you asked me, ‘Where are you going?’ Now I have said these things. I can tell that it makes you really sad.”

“I am telling you the truth. It is good for you that I am leaving. If I do not go, then the helper will not come to you. After I leave, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will confront the world about sin, right living, and judgment.”

“He will confront them about sin. However, they still will not believe in me. He will confront them about right living. However, they still will not go to the father. They still will not look at me. He will confront them about judgment. However, he has already judged the ruler of this world.”

“I still have a lot to say. You cannot handle it right now. When the spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into the entire truth. He will not speak on his own. What he hears, he will speak. He will announce what is coming. He will honor me. He will take what is mine. He will announce it to you.”

“Everything that the father has belongs to me. That is why I am telling you this. What he got from me, he will announce to you.”

You will see me again.

“You cannot see me much longer. You will see me again after a little while.”

Then his disciples started saying to each other, “What does he mean when he says this? ‘You cannot see me. Then you will look at me again after a little while.’ And, ‘I have to go back to the father.’”

So, they said, “What is this ‘little while’? We do not understand what you are talking about.”

Jesus knew they wanted to ask a question. So, he answered. “You are discussing among yourselves what I meant. I said, ‘You cannot see me much longer. Then you will look at me again after a little while.’”

“I guarantee you this: You will cry. You will sob. The world will rejoice. You will grieve. However, your grief will turn into joy. While a woman is giving birth, she experiences pain. It is her time. After the baby is born, she does not remember the trauma. She is just happy that she birthed a child into the world.”

“You are going to have pain now. When I see you again, you will be really happy. No one will be able to take your joy away. At that time you will not ask me anything. My father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Up to this point, no one has asked anything in my name. Ask. You will receive. Then your joy will become complete.”

“I used to speak to you in figures of speech. The time has come when I will not speak to you in figures of speech. I will openly proclaim the father to you. Then you will ask in my name. I will not answer you. I will ask the father for you. The father loves you. You loved me. You believed that I came from the father. I left the father. I came into the world. I am leaving the world. I will go back to the father.

His disciples said, “I see! Now you speak openly. You no longer speak in figures of speech. Now we know that you know everything. You do not need anyone to ask you anything. So, we believe that you came from God.”

Jesus responded, “Do you believe now? The time is coming. It has already arrived. Each of you will scatter individually. You will abandon me. I will not be completely alone. The father is with me. I tell you this so that you can still have peace through me. You are going to have some trouble with the world. Be strong. I have already defeated the world.”

God gave the world to Jesus.

¹⁷Jesus said these things. Then he turned his eyes toward heaven. He said, “Father. It is time. Honor your son. Your son will honor you. You gave him authority over all people. You gave everyone to him. He can give them life forever. This is life forever: They should know that you are the only living God. You sent Jesus, the messiah. I honored you on earth. I finished what you sent me to do. Now honor me, father. It is for your honor. I had it before you created the world.”

“You gave some of the people from the world to me. I presented your name to them. You gave them both to me and also to yourself. They kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me comes from you. You gave the same word to them that you gave to me. They accepted it. They are confident that I came from you. They believe you sent me. My requests are for their benefit.”

“I am not asking for the world. I am asking for those that you gave to me. They also belong to you. What is mine is yours. What is yours is mine. My glory is them.”

“I will not be in the world any more. They will. I am coming to you. Holy father. Keep them with your name. You gave it to me. Make them one with us.”

“I was with them. I kept them with your name. You gave it to me. Protect them. Do not allow any harm to them. Destroy the son of destruction. Fulfill the scriptures. I am coming to you now. Let them be full of my joy. I gave them your word. The world hated them. They are not from the world. Similarly, I am not from the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world. Instead, keep them from evil. They are not from the world. I am not from the world. Make them holy with the truth. Your word is the truth. You sent me into the world. I sent them into the world. I am an offering for them. Then they are certainly an offering.”

“I am not asking this for them alone. I am asking this for everyone who believes in me through their message. Let them be one. You are in me, father. I am in you. Let them be in us. Then the world can believe that you sent me. I gave them the honor you gave me. They can be one. We are one. I am in them. You are in me. Let them be totally united. The world will then know that you sent me. They love each other, just like you love me.”

“Father, you gave them to me. I wish that they could be with me. I wish that they could go where I am going. They will see my honor. You gave it to me. You loved me before the creation of the world. Righteous father, the world does not know me. I do know you. They know that you sent me. I introduced your name to them. I will make it known. Give them the same love you gave me. I will also be in them.”

They arrest, try, and sentence Jesus.

The deputies arrest Jesus.

¹⁸Jesus finished saying these things. Then he and his disciples crossed the Kidron spring. There was a garden there. He and his disciples went in.

They arrest, try, and sentence Jesus.

The deputies arrest Jesus.

Judas betrayed Jesus. Judas knew they would be at this place. Jesus often met with his disciples there. Judas joined a division and also deputies from the high priests and the Pharisees. They arrived carrying torches, lamps, and weapons.

Jesus saw them coming toward him. He went out to meet them. He asked them, "What do you want?"

They answered. "Jesus from Nazareth."

"That is me." Judas betrayed him. He was standing with them.

When he said, "Here I am," they stepped back. Then they fell on the ground. He asked them again. "What do you want?"

They said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus answered, "I told you that it is me. If you are looking for me, then leave them alone."

This happened to fulfill what he said, "You gave them to me. Do not allow any harm to them."^a

Simon Peter had a sword. He pulled it out. He swung it at the high priest's servant. He chopped off his right ear. (The name of the servant was Malchus.) Jesus said, "Put your sword back in the sheath. Do you think that you can drink from the cup my father gave me?"

So, the division, its commanders, and the Jewish deputies arrested Jesus. They tied him up. First, they took him to Annas. Annas was the father-in-law of Kaiaphas. Kaiaphas was the high priest during that year. Kaiaphas was responsible for advising the Jews. One man had to die for the people.

Peter denies Jesus.

Meanwhile, Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. That disciple knew the high priest. He went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. Peter stood outside near the entrance. The disciple who knew the high priest returned. He spoke to the sentry. He got Peter in.

The sentry was a slave girl. She spoke to Peter. "Are you not one of that man's disciples?"

Peter said, "Not me."

a) John 17:12.

Some slaves and the deputies were standing there. They had made a fire. It was cold. They were trying to stay warm. Peter was also standing there with them. He was trying to stay warm, too.

The high priest interrogates Jesus.

So, the high priest interrogated Jesus about his disciples and teachings. Jesus answered. "I have spoken clearly out in the open. I always taught in the synagogue and in the temple. I spoke where the Jewish people gathered. I never spoke in secret. Why do you ask me about these things? Ask the people who heard me. They know what I said."



This chest contains the bones of the high priest Kaiaphas.

One of the deputies standing there gave Jesus a slap. "Who said you could talk to the high priest like that?"

Jesus answered. "If I said something wrong, then I would admit it. If I said something good, then what provokes you to hit me?"

They tied Jesus up. Then Annas sent Jesus to Kaiaphas the high priest.

Peter denies Jesus again.

Peter was still standing outside trying to stay warm. They said to him, "Are you not one of his disciples?"

He denied it. "I am not."

One of the servants of the high priest spoke. He was a relative of the man whose ear Peter chopped off. "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Peter denied it again. Right then, the rooster crowed.

Pilatus talks to them.

They took Jesus away from Kaiaphas. They lead him to the governor's palace. It was morning. So, they did not actually take him inside the palace. They did not want to be impure just before they ate the Passover

festival. Pilatus came outdoors to talk to them. “What is the charge that you bring against him?”

They answered. “If he did nothing wrong, then we would not deliver him to you.”

Pilatus spoke. “You arrested him. Judge him by your law.”

The Jews responded. “We are not allowed to execute anyone.” (This occurred to bring about what Jesus said. He predicted the type of execution he was going to experience.)

So, Pilatus returned back into his palace. He spoke to Jesus. “Are you the Jewish king?”

Jesus responded. “Are you asking this for yourself? Or, did someone else speak about me?”

Pilatus answered. “Am I Jewish? Your people and the high priests delivered you to me. What did you do?”

Jesus said, “My kingdom is not from this world. If it was, then my representatives would have resisted. I would not have been arrested by the Jewish leaders. My current kingdom is not from here.”

Pilatus said, “So, you are a king!”

Jesus said, “You claim that I am a king. I was born for this reason. It is for this reason that I came into the world. I report the truth. Everyone that comes from the truth hears my voice.”

Pilatus said to him, “What is the truth?”

After this, Pilatus went back outside. He met with the Jewish leaders. “I do not find him guilty of anything. However, you have a custom. I will release one person to you at the Passover.”

They shouted. “Not him! Instead give us Bar-Abbas.” (Bar-Abbas was a robber.)

They sentence Jesus to death.

¹⁹Pilatus took Jesus away. He whipped him. The soldiers made a crown from some thorns. They set it on his head. They dressed him in purple clothes. They said to him, “Greetings to the king of the Jews!” Then they gave him a beating.

Pilatus went back outside. He said to them, “Look here. I am bringing him outside. You should know that I do not find him guilty of anything.”

So, they brought him outside. He was wearing the crown of thorns and the purple clothes. Pilatus said, "Look, here he is."

The high priests and their deputies saw Jesus. They started shouting. "Hang him! Hang him!"

Pilatus said, "Take him yourself. You put him on the cross. I do not find him guilty of anything."

The Jewish leaders answered. "You have a law. According to that law he should be executed. He made himself out to be a son of God."

When Pilatus heard these things, he got even more afraid. He went back into the palace again. He asked Jesus, "Who are you?"

Jesus gave no answer.

Pilatus said, "You are not going to answer me? Do you not know that I have the power to release you? I can also nail you to the cross."

Jesus said, "You do not have any authority over me. Your only authority is from above. They delivered me to you. They committed the worse sin." From this point on, Pilatus sought to release him.

The Jewish leaders shouted some more. "If you release him, then you are not Caesar's friend. Every king will try to rebel against Caesar."

When Pilatus heard these words, he led Jesus outside. He sat him down in the judicial bench. This place was called *The Pavement*. (In Aramaic it is called *Gabbatha*.)

It was the day of preparation for the Passover. It was about six o'clock. Pilatus told the Jews, "Look, he is your king."

They shouted. "Take him away! Take him away! Hang him!"

Pilatus said to them, "Should I nail your king to the cross?"

The high priests said, "We have no king other than Caesar."

So, he handed Jesus over to them for hanging. They took custody of Jesus.

Jesus is crucified, is buried, and then rises.

They hang two people with Jesus.

He had to carry the cross by himself. He brought it to the *Place of the Skull*. (In Aramaic, it is called *Golgotha*.) They hung two people with him at that place. One was on each side. Jesus was in the middle.

Pilatus had a sign made. He put it above the cross. He wrote on the sign. "Jesus of Nazareth. King of the Jews." Many of the Jewish people saw this sign. Jesus was nailed to the cross near the town. It was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. The Jewish high priests spoke to Pilatus. "Do not write, 'King of the Jews.' Instead it should say, 'He claimed to be king of the Jews.'"

Pilatus responded. "I wrote what I wrote."

The soldiers were there. They put Jesus on the cross. They took his clothing. They divided them into four parts. Each soldier got a part. There was also his underwear. It was seamless. It was woven in one piece. They said to each other, "Do not tear it. Instead, cast lots for it."

This happened to fulfill the scripture:

They divided my clothes between them.

They cast lots for my garment.^a

So, the soldiers did these things.

Jesus' mother and his mother's sister were standing near the cross. There was Mary from Clopas. There was Mary from Magdala. Jesus saw his mother. The loved disciple was standing there. He told his mother, "Look, madam. Here is your son."

He told the disciple, "Look. Here is your mother." From this point forward, the disciple accepted her as his own mother. After this, Jesus could tell that everything was finished.

It happened to fulfill the scripture, "I thirst."^b There was a container full of sour wine. They filled a sponge with the sour wine. They also mixed it with hyssop. Then they brought it up to his mouth. Jesus took the sour wine.

He said, "It is finished." Then his head bent down. His life went away.

It was the day of preparation. The Jews did not want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath. This was an especially important Sabbath. So, they asked Pilatus to break their legs. Then they could remove the bodies. The soldiers went to the bodies. They broke the legs of the first man. Then they did the same thing for the other man that they hung with him. When they came to Jesus, they noticed that he was already dead. So, they did not break his legs.

a) Psalm 22:18.

b) Psalm 22:15.

One of the soldiers had a spear. He pushed it into Jesus' side. Blood and water suddenly came out. (The one who saw this reports it. His report is the truth. He knows that he is speaking the truth. This way you can believe.) It happened to fulfill the scripture, "They did not break his bones."^a Another scripture says, "They will look at the one they pierced."^b

They bury Jesus.

After this, Joseph from Arimathea appealed to Pilatus. He was secretly a disciple of Jesus. He was afraid of what the Jews might do. However, he wanted to take possession of the body of Jesus. So, Pilatus gave him permission. Nicodemus also showed up. He was the one that came to Jesus at night. He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloe, about fifteen liters.

They took possession of Jesus' body. They wrapped it with linen cloths. They mixed the cloths with the spices. They followed traditional Jewish burial practices.

There was a garden near where they hung Jesus. There was a new tomb there. They had never buried anyone in it before. It was the Jewish preparation. The tomb was nearby. So, they buried Jesus there.

They visit the tomb.

²⁰It was the first day of the week. Mary from Magdala arrived at the tomb in the early morning. It was still dark. She noticed that they removed the stone from the tomb. She started running. She came to where Simon Peter was. The other disciple that Jesus loved was there, too. She told them, "Someone took the lord from the tomb. I do not know where they put the body."

Peter left with the other disciple. They went to the tomb. The two of them were running together. The other disciple ran faster than Peter. He got to the tomb first.

He bent over. He saw linen wrappings. They were lying inside. However, he did not go in. After he arrived, Simon Peter showed up. He did go into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying inside. The face cloth was also there. It had covered Jesus' head. It was not with the linen wrappings. It was folded up by itself. Then the other disciple went in. He got

a) Psalm 34:20.

b) Zechariah 12:10.

to the tomb first. He saw. He believed. (They still did not understand the scriptures. Jesus had to rise from the dead.) These disciples went back to the others.

Mary sees Jesus.

Mary was standing outside the tomb crying. She bent over. She looked into the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white clothes. One was in the front. One was in the back. They were right where Jesus' body had been laying. They said to her, "Madam, why are you crying?"

She told them, "My lord is missing. I do not know where they put him."

While she was saying these things, she turned around. She saw Jesus standing right there! However, she did not recognize him. He asked her, "Madam, why are you crying? What are you looking for?"

She thought he was a gardener. "Sir, if you moved him, then tell me where you put him. I will leave. I will go there."

Jesus said, "Miriam!"

She turned toward him. She spoke in Aramaic, "*Rabbi!*" (This means *Teacher.*)

Jesus said, "Do not touch me. I have to go up to the father. Go to my brothers. Tell them, 'I am going up to my father.' He is your father. My God is your God."

Jesus stands there.

Miriam from Magdala left. She reported to the disciples, "I saw the lord. He told me these things."

It was evening on that same day. It was the first day of the week. The disciples closed the door where they were. This was because they feared the Jewish leaders. Jesus arrived. He stood right in the middle of them. He said, "Peace!"

He showed his hands and his side to them. They were glad to see the lord. He spoke to them again. "Peace! The father sent me. So, I am sending you."

After he said this, he breathed on them. "Accept the holy spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, then they will be forgiven. If you do not, then they will not."

Jesus speaks to Thomas.

Thomas was one of the twelve. He was called the Twin. He was not present when Jesus visited them. The other disciples spoke to him. "We saw the lord!"

Thomas said, "Unless I can see his hand where they drove the nail, unless I put my finger in that place, unless I put my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days passed. His disciples went outside. Thomas went with them. Jesus arrived. He shut the door. He was standing right in their midst. He said, "Peace."

Then he spoke to Thomas. "Put your finger here. See my hands. Take your hand. Put it in my side. Do not be an unbeliever. Believe."

Thomas responded. "My lord. My God."

Jesus spoke. "You believe because you were able to see for yourself. Blessed are the ones who cannot see but still believe."

Jesus did lots of things with his disciples. He performed miracles in their presence. Not all of them are in this book. This writing is so that you will believe that Jesus is the messiah, the son of God. After you believe, you can have life in his name.

Jesus appears again.

²¹After this, Jesus appeared again to his disciples near Lake Tiberias. Here is how it happened. There were several of them together: Simon Peter, Thomas who was called the Twin, Nathaniel from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples. Simon Peter said, "I am going fishing."

The others said, "We are going with you."

So, they left. They went out in the boat. They caught nothing that night.

In the morning, there was Jesus, standing on the shore. The disciples did not recognize that it was Jesus. Jesus spoke to them. "Children, did you catch any fish?"

They answered. "No."

He said, "Throw your net on the right hand side of the boat. You will catch fish there."

They did it. So, they could not even pull up the net. It was full of fish. The disciple that Jesus loved spoke to Peter. "That is the lord."

When Peter heard that it was the lord, he put on his robe. He had taken his clothes off. Then he jumped into the water. The rest of the disciples were in the boat. They were about one hundred meters from land. They were still dragging the net full of fish.

They were away from the shore. They could see that someone had started a fire. He was cooking fish and bread. Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish you just caught."

Simon Peter got up. He drug the net to shore. It was full of 153 large fish. There were so many fish that it was about to break the net. Jesus told them, "Go ahead. Eat."

None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" (They knew it was the lord.)

Jesus came over. He took the bread. He gave it to them. He also gave them some fish. This was the third time that Jesus appeared to them after rising from the dead.

Jesus speaks to Simon Peter.

After eating, Jesus spoke to Simon Peter. "Simon, son of John. Do you love me more than them?"

He said, "Yes, lord. You know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

He spoke to him a second time. "Simon, son of John. Do you love me?"

He said, "Yes, lord. You know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Tend to my sheep."

He spoke to him a third time. "Simon, son of John. Do you love me?"

It bothered Peter that he asked this a third time. "Do you love me?"

He spoke to Jesus. "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you."

Jesus told him, "Take care of my sheep. I guarantee you this: When you were young, you dressed yourself. You traveled where you wanted. When you are old, you will reach your hand out. Someone else will dress you. He will take you where you do not want to go."

He said this to predict how his death would honor God. Afterwards, he told him, "Follow me."

Peter saw the disciple that Jesus loved.

Peter turned around. He saw the disciple that Jesus loved was right behind them. (He was sitting at the meal before. He had been leaning on Jesus' chest. He was the one who asked, "Who will betray you?") Peter saw him. He said to Jesus, "Lord. What about him?"

Jesus said, "If I want him to stay until I return, then what business is it of yours? You just follow me." (This statement made some of the brothers think this disciple would never die. Jesus did not say that he would never die. He said, "If I want him to stay until I return.")

This is that disciple. He reports these things. He is the one that writes this. He knows that this report is true. Jesus did a lot more than this. If each event were written down, then I do not think the whole world would be big enough to hold all the books.