

# **The Gospel of Mark in Verse.**

**Put into verse by Zoltan Paul Dienes**

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# Mark 1.

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Here's the good news of Christ Jesus, God's own Son who came to save us!  
God said one will bring the message, for the Son to clear the passage,  
So the Son who'll come thereafter, could His work do that much faster!  
Thus John went into the desert, camel-haired and leather-belted,  
Ever preaching and baptizing, many people thus surprising  
By his calling for repentance, so to earn the Lord's forgiveness,  
So their sins they thus confessed, in the Jordan they were blessed.  
John announced then to his hearers, whether townsmen or wayfarers:  
"Look to Him who will come later, you will see that He's much greater,  
I've no right to loose His laces, He's so great and full of graces!  
I with water am your host, but He'll bring the Holy Ghost!"

Jesus came to Jordan's river, where John worked as blessing giver!  
He went there to be baptized, at which John was much surprised.  
As He came out of the water, message came across the border  
Twixt the Earth and Heaven's regions where the angels dwell in legions:  
"You're my Son, my own beloved! Much delight to Me you've rendered!"  
And He sent the Holy Spirit, (a white dove the symbol of it!).

Jesus urged then by the Spirit (who'd be with Him every minute!)  
To the desert go for fasting, so to gather strength more lasting!  
There by Satan He was tempted who to win Him there attempted,  
Jesus countered all his daring, thanks to angels who were caring  
Sent there by the Everlasting, who accompanied His fasting.

After Herod John arrested, Jesus went as God requested  
To start preaching the Good News and accept eternal truths:  
"Kingdom of your God is nearing, there is naught you should be fearing  
If you turn from all your sinning, let your hearts with joy be brimming!"

One day Jesus, He was walking (for followers was He stalking?)  
By the Sea of Galilee, when some fishers He could see.  
They were Simon and his brother working on their nets together.  
He called to these working fishers: "Follow me and do my wishes,  
With me you will fish for men, even if you're not sure when!"  
The two brothers went with Jesus saying: "We'll help, if you need us!"  
Further down were James and John who on torn nets worked upon.  
Jesus called them to come too, which they did decide to do.

When they got to Capernaum, which was quite a little town,  
Since it was the Sabbath day, Jesus then without delay  
To the synagogue He went, where on preaching He was bent.  
With authority He spoke, other authors didn't quote,  
So His hearers were surprised (Who is this man thus disguised?)  
Then a man possessed of evil screamed to Jesus shouting : "You will  
Be our end here, you'll destroy us, Son of God You are, Man Jesus!"  
Jesus curtly did command: "Leave this person! I demand!"  
Then the demon gave a scream, then as though waked from a dream,  
The possessed at once was freed, all were shocked by Jesus' deed!  
Soon the news of this event to new towns it was then sent.

Now they went to Simon's dwelling, to escape the crowd so swelling,  
Simon's mother-in-law was ill, with high fever she lay still.  
Jesus took her by the hand, telling her to understand  
That at once her dreadful fever, it will cease and surely leave her.  
Jesus helped her to sit up and she instantly got up  
And prepared some food to eat for all those that she could seat.

Ere the darkness fell that night many came to show their plight.  
Jesus healed a lot that day and some demons chased away.  
At the break of dawn next morning He for prayers was now longing.  
In the wilderness He prayed but His friends had not delayed;  
They went out for Him to find, they would not be left behind!  
"Everyone is asking for you! For your help they do adore you!"  
Jesus then thus did reply: "We some other towns must try!  
So I CAN give them my message, that's the reason for my passage!"  
So they went through many places, leaving healing in their traces.  
One of these was one poor leper. "You could make me so much happier  
If you wished I could be cured, my health would then be assured!"  
Thus he spoke to Jesus sadly. "I do wish to cure you gladly!"  
The Lord Jesus thus replied healing him in just one stride!  
Jesus told the man He'd cured: "Now that your health is assured  
See the priest now right away and tell no one on the way!  
Take along what each healed leper to the synagogue must offer"  
But the healed man wasn't quiet, since his tongue he couldn't tie it!  
So he shouted of his healing, bursting forth his grateful feeling  
So the news spread far and wide so for Jesus they all cried.  
To the wilds then Jesus went which for Him some praying meant  
But the people soon came after as they wished to hear the master.  
So again he started preaching, love of God to people teaching.

## Mark 2.

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A few days after this He went to Capernaum  
Soon the news spread about Him all over the town.  
Such a crowd gathered round the small house where He stayed  
That the entrance was blocked as the crowd was too great!  
But while Jesus there preached, four good men had arrived  
With one poor paralytic who did with them abide.  
But because of the crowd they could not pass the door,  
All about the small house there were people galore!  
So they hoisted their friend to the roof up above,  
Through a hole in the roof they reached this Man of Love  
When they'd lowered their friend on his mat to this Man.  
Jesus out of compassion then His healing began:  
“Now your sins are forgiven!” said He TO the man sick,  
Pharisees who attended thought this was too slick!  
“Only God up in Heaven forgives us our sins,  
Surely this man thus speaking blaspheming begins!”  
But when Jesus had heard what there was in their thoughts,  
He then asked them this question to clear up their doubts:  
“Is it easier to say to this paralyzed man  
That your sins are forgiven or get up if you can?”  
“I will prove to you that I have authority  
To forgive this man's sins, with much simplicity!”  
So He said to the man paralyzed on the floor:  
“Now get UP, take your MAT and go out of that door!”  
The sick man then got up, took his mat and went out,  
No one COULD understand how his cure came about!  
But they said that such healing they never had seen  
But they sang praise to God who had made the man clean!  
Later Jesus was walking along by the lake  
Where He saw a young tax-man He wanted to take  
With Him SO He said: “COME! Follow ME!”, which he did,  
So he left his tax-office and did as was bid!  
Later Jesus was guest at the taxman's abode  
Which lay just a few houses along the main road.  
There were taxmen and outcasts along with the guests  
(Though the taxmen were there, they did not bring their desks!)  
There were some Pharisees who were shocked at this sight,  
These tough experts of Law were quite ready to fight!  
“How come Jesus, your Master, with sinners does dine?  
Surely this cannot with Moses' law be in line!”

**Jesus heard their objections and answered them thus:  
“I don’t know why you lawmen will make such a fuss!  
Of physicians the healthy do not have a need,  
It’s the outcasts who have much more need of my seed  
The respectable, THEY know the Law and will thrive,  
But I sinners and outcasts will help to survive!”**

**The disciples of John, they were keen on the fast.  
Pharisees also fasted (with flag on the mast!)  
The disciples of Jesus, they were not so keen  
On a fasting for show by the folks to be seen.  
Once some lawmen the disciples of Jesus did ask:  
“Can you say why there is always wine in your flask  
And you eat and you feast while the others do fast?  
(Pharisees wanted Jesus’ disciples to blast!)  
Jesus said: “Will the guests at a wedding not eat?  
While the groom is still with them, they’ll eat till replete!  
When the groom in the end has departed at last,  
There’ll be time for the guests to begin their own fast!”  
You do not use new cloth for to patch an old vest  
Such a patch, it will shrink and will tear all the rest!  
Into old wineskins you would not pour the new wine,  
It would burst the old skin after some little time!**

**There was one Sabbath day the disciples were out  
Among fields of fresh corn that had grown round about.  
The disciples then started to pick ears of corn,  
Perhaps since they were hungry or just felt forlorn!  
Pharisees came to Jesus and started to say:  
“It’s not lawful to do this when it’s Sabbath Day”  
Jesus said: “Have you heard what our King David did  
When he took holy bread which for priests had been hid?  
It’s the law that priests only can eat of this bread  
But then David was hungry and felt no great dread  
For to break this old law, still his hunger instead!  
So then also the Sabbath was made for man’s good  
Not the Other way round, to deprive him of food!  
You’ll see THIS Son of Man of the Sabbath the Lord,  
And with Him all just men, they will be in accord!”**

## Mark 3.

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Then Jesus back to the synagogue went where He saw a sick man  
This man was partially paralyzed since he could not stretch his hand.  
There were some people who wished to accuse Jesus of doing wrong,  
They wished to see if He would heal the man whom they had brought along.  
It was the Sabbath, so they thought the Law would forbid any healing,  
If He did heal, it was clear that with breaking the Sabbath they're dealing!  
Jesus then said to the man: "Come up front and come out of the crowd!"  
Then to the people He said: "On the Sabbath what can be allowed?  
Is it to save or to harm? To save life or perhaps to destroy?"  
They remained silent as they were not ready for this kind of ploy!  
As He looked over the crowd, He was angry but also was sad,  
Holding to such fixed ideas He clearly had thought was too bad!  
Then He said TO the sick man: "Stretch your arm out, as now you are healed!  
You can go home and now help round the house, also work in the field!"  
At this the Pharisees left to make plans for Lord Jesus to kill,  
(As the Messiah must suffer, the prophecies thus to fulfill!)

Lake Galilee was the next port of call where He planned to be teaching,  
As many people for His words of wisdom there Him were beseeching.  
As it turned out such a big crowd assembled that He had to ask  
For a small boat so that He could have space to accomplish His task.  
Jesus had healed many folk but more sick came who wanted His touch,  
Those who were struck by some demon were showing their fears very much,  
Shouting: "You are Son of God!", falling down all prostrate on the floor,  
But Jesus ordered them not to reveal who He was any more!

Then Jesus walked up a hill, to select who would be his apostles,  
They would be men of the people not rich ones who lived in their castles!  
Jesus, He said to them: "You have been chosen as I want you with me,  
You can drive demons out with my authority, even without me!"  
He called on Simon He later called Peter, then James and his brother  
Of the name John, two sons OF Zebedee whom He called Men of Thunder,  
Philip and Andrew then Mathew, Bartholomew, Thomas and James,  
Simon the zealot, Thaddaeus, which makes up eleven good names,  
Then for the twelfth he chose one who'd betray Him called Judas Escariot  
Who would be taken to Hell for his crime in the Devil's big chariot!

Some of the Pharisees were so amazed at what Jesus was doing  
That they began to suspect that Lord Jesus with Satan was dealing  
They said: "It must be the chief of the demons who gives Him these powers!"  
Jesus replied that the devil is cunning and has much more prowess  
Than to allow any spirit of his to drive out any others,  
If in a country a group fights another they're NO longer brothers  
Then such a country no longer can stand and will fall apart,  
Same as family fighting each other has failed at the start!  
If Satan's kingdom divided itself it would disintegrate,  
He knows in that case it would be the end of his kingdom of hate!"  
"No one can break down a strong man's abode without tying him well,  
Then he can take his belongings to make his own property swell!"

"I can assure you the sins of the people can all be forgiven,  
Even the evil against one another for which they have striven,  
If you blaspheme now against what you know to be God's Holy Spirit,  
Then you will not be forgiven because the eternal of sins you've committed!"

Jesus' s mother and some of His bothers arrived at the door,  
But they could not find their way through the crowd as had happened before!  
They sent a message they wanted to see Him but Jesus replied:  
"Who is my mother and who are my brothers with whom I abide?  
Here are my sister, my brother and mother who will do God's Will!"  
Pointing at those sitting round in a circle attentively still!

## Mark 4.

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By the Sea of Galilee was where Jesus liked to be,  
To the shores of this great lake, He would come to have a break.  
But the crowd gave Him no peace, so He could have no release!  
So a small boat He did board, which for Him there had been moored.  
But the crowd stood on the shore, hoping He would speak some more.  
Thus in parables He spoke, which their interest awoke:

One man went to sow some corn, since to farming he was born,  
As He went to scatter seed, some on pathways birds did feed!  
Some seeds fell on rocky ground, where they not much soil had found.  
These to sprout they soon did learn, when the sun came they did burn.  
Some fell where there was much thorn, these did try to grow to corn  
But as seedlings they were killed, as the soil with thorns got filled.  
Some seeds fell in fertile soil, thus rewarding all the toil!  
Some grew even hundred grains, profiting from autumn rains  
Listen, so that you can hear, if you have a hearing ear!”

From this story they were gleaning some suspicion of its meaning,  
Though they questioned the Lord Jesus: “All the meaning , will you tell us?”  
“You’ve been given, of the Kingdom, all its secrets and its wisdom.  
We need stories for the others, even though they are our brothers.  
They may look yet not see land, listen but not understand.  
If they did, to God they’d turn, thus forgiveness they would earn.”

“In the story then the farmer sows the message of the Father,  
Seeds that fall on to the way, are truths Satan steals away!  
Seeds that fall on rocky ground, they of message hear the sound,  
Its effects last not too long, since as soon as things go wrong  
On account of what they’ve learned, they will waste what they have earned!  
Seeds that fall among much thorn, these for worldly gains are born;  
They care more for getting rich, if in trouble they will switch  
From self-giving and from love to contempt of God above!  
Seeds that end up in good soil don’t themselves in sins embroil,  
They bear fruit a hundred fold, treading virtue’s path of gold!”

“If you have a goodly lamp, you will place it on a stand,  
Or would you, perhaps instead, hide it well under the bed?  
Surely not! As what is hidden, will be found, as soon as bidden!  
So whatever you keep covered, in the end will be uncovered!  
Listen, so that you can hear, if you have a hearing ear!”



**“In your judging, mind your rules, making sure you have the tools,  
God the same rules will apply, when in judgment you He’ll try!  
If you have something in store, you’ll be given even more!  
But if you have less or naught, this with danger will be fraught,  
As what’s still left on your tray, will be surely cast away!”**

**“Our God’s Kingdom’s like a seed, on whose fruit it’s good to feed.  
Seed is scattered when it’s day, when it’s night, we go our way  
But the seeds will go on sprouting, we the sowers never doubting,  
Though not knowing how they grow, it’s the soil that gives them go!  
First the tender stalks appear, followed by the growing ear,  
When the ear is full of corn, it’s for harvest to be shorn!  
Growing seeds are like the Kingdom, Nature is so full of wisdom!  
Mustard seeds are very small, but they grow to plants so tall!  
So to plant a mustard seed, it will surely meet your need!  
For birds too, it is the best, in its branches they will nest!”  
Jesus told them many stories, which would lead to other glories,  
He stopped also to explain, for their meanings to make plain.**

**In the evening Jesus said: “In my thinking I am led  
That a journey we should make to the far side of this lake”  
So His friends boarded the boat in which Jesus was afloat.  
In the center of the lake, a big storm their boat did shake!  
Jesus was so very tired, so to sleeping He’d retired.  
His friends thought their boat was sinking, should they wake Him, they were thinking?  
Waking Him His friends did cry: ‘Don’t you care that we shall die?’  
To the wind He cried: “Be quiet!”. His friends were amazed He’d try it!  
To the waves He cried: “Be still and obey my Father’s Will!”  
Suddenly there was great calm, which did stop His friends’ alarm.  
“Why did you have fear so great? Was your life truly at stake?  
Why don’t you have any faith, of it have you not a trace?”  
(Thus He speaks to His disciples, with His words their fears He stifles!)  
But His friends stayed full of fright as they had not seen the light,  
“Who is this whom waves obey, over winds holding His sway?”**

## Mark 5.

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When their boat had arrived on the opposite shore,  
The disciples had certain surprises in store!  
There a man who was filled with some demons they met,  
Who had been to his neighbours a dangerous threat.  
He could not be tied down as he broke all the chains,  
Both his feet put in irons he would break with no pains!  
Twixt the tombs of the dead he would cry day and night,  
Cutting flesh with sharp stones thus increasing his plight!  
When he saw from a distance Lord Jesus on land  
He prostrated his body, all naked and tanned  
And he shouted so loud at the top of his voice:  
“Have you come so you can in my torture rejoice?  
You are Jesus, the Son of the God the most high!  
What is it that with me you are wanting to try?”  
He said this since Lord Jesus had told him to leave  
The poor man he'd possessed and had caused so to grieve.  
Jesus asked: “What's your name?” He replied : “It is Legion!  
And we beg that you won't send us out of this region!”  
There were great many pigs that were feeding nearby,  
So the demons begged Jesus: “To pigs might we fly?”  
Jesus gave them permission the pigs to possess  
So they went in the pigs their advantage to press.  
There were two thousand pigs in the herd thus attacked,  
Which, by demons possessed, any sense now they lacked,  
So they rushed down the slope and ran into the lake,  
Where they drowned, every one, as no breath they could take!  
Then those tending the pigs, they ran off to the town,  
Telling all the towns-people how the pigs had run down!  
When they came and they saw him who had been possessed  
Sitting now with Lord Jesus and decently dressed,  
He was in his right mind and could speak as before,  
But the people, they feared what else MIGHT be in store!  
So they begged Him to leave and depart from their shore.  
But as Jesus would leave for the opposite shore  
The possessed one came down and said: “Can I come too?”  
“You must tell all the people what God HAS done for you”  
So said Jesus to him as He readied to go,  
So he went and told all how God saved him from woe!

When Lord Jesus arrived, having crossed the big lake,  
The disciples, they wanted some peace for His sake,  
But there was such a crowd as He came near the shore,  
Who had come there to hear Him, in case He'd say more!  
There was one from the synagogue with the name Jairus  
Who did plead in a desperate tone with Lord Jesus:  
"If you would put your hands on my daughter who's dying,  
She would surely be healed and we'd cease all our crying!"  
In the crowd was a woman with hemorrhaged arm  
She did think that some healing for her would be balm!  
So she pushed through the crowd to touch Jesus' s dress  
As she thought that this act her good health would redress!  
At this point Jesus said: "Who was touching my dress?"  
Since He felt that the power in His being was now less!  
The disciples then said: "How say you, who did touch?  
When the people are pushing around you so much?"  
But the sick woman, she was quite instantly healed  
Seeing that through her faith to her God had appealed,  
She had faith that mere touching the hem of His dress  
Would then heal her and IN this way God her would bless!  
Then the healed woman knelt down at Jesus' s feet  
Telling Him how she secretly Him came to meet!  
"Oh my daughter! It's faith that has helped you be whole!  
Go in peace now! Let love of the Lord be your goal"

At the SAME time that Jesus was speaking this way  
That a message arrived that the girl'd passed away.  
"Do not trouble the Teacher with this any more!"  
Said the messenger WHO this sad message he bore.  
Jesus paid no attention to what he had said  
As He knew that the child could be raised from the dead.  
He said: "Don't be afraid! You must only believe!  
If your faith be so strong, you'll have no cause to grieve!"  
So He went to the home of the dead little girl  
Where He found the whole house in confusion and whirl!  
They were all crying loudly for loss of the child  
So to comfort them Jesus with THESE words He tried:  
"See? This CHILD is not dead, she is only asleep!"  
To which some gave a laugh, some continued to weep.  
Jesus sent them all out and went TO the child's bed  
With her hands in His own, to these words He was led:  
"Little GIRL! I am telling you now to arise!"  
And at once she arose to the people's surprise!  
Jesus said: "Do not tell to your friends of this feat,  
But make sure to the child you give something to eat!"

## Mark 6.

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Jesus returned to His home where from earliest childhood was raised,  
In Nazareth's synagogue through the Torah it's God that He praised.  
People were stunned by His wisdom and knowledge as HE started preaching,  
He's just a carpenter's son, so where HAD he received all the teaching?  
Since He was just one of them, they decided that they would reject Him,  
They did not think that the Lord one of them could as prophet select Him!  
"Prophets respect everywhere they'll receive but not IN their own home town,  
That notwithstanding their efforts in teaching from sunrise to sundown!"  
He could not even perform any miracles, save for some healing  
By placing hands on the sick come to Him who before Him were kneeling!  
Jesus was greatly surprised at this turn of events in His mission,  
Yet He knew well that you needed the faith to receive absolution!

Then He sent out His apostles, by sending them out two by two,  
And gave them power to drive out bad spirits and heal the sick too.  
His strict instructions to His twelve apostles in this way were spoken:  
"Do not take anything with you excepting a staff as a token,  
Take neither bread, nor your bag nor your money nor objects of value,  
Wear only sandals, take no extra tunic as IT won't avail you!  
Each time you enter a house you must stay in it till you depart  
But if you're NOT welcome leave them alone and then make a quick start!  
So they went out and they preached to the people that they should repent,  
Healing the people and chasing out demons till they were all spent.

Soon Herod heard John the Baptist he'd killed had been raised from the dead  
As these miraculous cures only John could have done, people said!  
Others thought it was Elijah or maybe a prophet reborn,  
All this gave Herod much worry who then spoke up thus with much scorn:  
"This John the Baptist whom I have beheaded is raised from the dead!"  
He knew that John was a holy man, so now he lived in much dread!

Truly King Herod had given out orders to have John arrested,  
Whom he had bound head to foot and in prison sequestered.  
Herod had married his own brother's wife as a partner for life,  
John told him it wasn't lawful to marry his own brother's wife.  
This woman nursed a big grudge against John and she wanted him killed,  
King Herod thought John was holy so HIS death he could not have willed.  
Herod developed a liking for John, to him HE liked to listen  
But soon events went awry as his wife she behaved like a vixen!  
Soon on his birthday the King held a banquet so utterly sumptuous.  
Music and dancing just filled the great halls and the food was so luscious!

But the high point was when Herod's wife's daughter beguiled them with dancing!  
Herod then said to the girl he would give her whatever she's asking.  
He also swore with an oath that the gift could be half of his kingdom.  
Then she went TO her own mother and asked, as she trusted her wisdom:  
"What shall I ask of the King?", "What about this John's head on a platter?"  
She went to Herod with THIS cruel request, which stopped all idle chatter:  
"This John the Baptist! It's HIS head I want, all served up on a platter!"  
Herod was greatly distressed, but because of his oath and his guests,  
Honouring promises sworn then was ONE of his kingships the tests.  
So he sent HIS executioner TO carry out this most dastardly deed,  
(Look, what results such deep hatred and jealousy truly can breed!)  
John's head laid out on a dish was presented to Herod's wife's daughter,  
Who in the crowd with the dish in her hands her own mother she sought her  
And gave her this grizzly gift when she could have had much brick and mortar!  
When John's disciples had heard about this they all fell in much gloom,  
But they came AND took John's body for burial in a fit tomb.

When the apostles returned they told Jesus of what they had done:  
Clearing out spirits and healing the sick they all thought was great fun!.  
But such a crowd had assembled to hear what Lord Jesus might say,  
It was impossible for them to rest or to eat through the day!  
"Let's go away to a place by ourselves where we CAN be alone"  
So spoke Lord Jesus so they sailed their boat up the shore far from home,  
Many who saw them depart recognized them and walked up the shore  
And overtook them on foot as they wanted to hear Jesus more!  
When Jesus saw the large crowd then His heart was soon filled with compassion  
They seemed like sheep with no shepherd who'd strayed from their usual station!  
So He began then to teach them more things of the Kingdom to come  
To which not all might be gaining acceptance, though certainly some!  
Since it was late the disciples suggested the dispatch of the throng  
So they could go and buy something to eat as they'd fasted so long!  
"You give them something to eat!", said Lord Jesus to their great amazement,  
"That would cost eight months of somebody's wages as minimal payment!"  
Said the disciples but Jesus then asked: "How much bread is there here?"  
"But for five loaves and two fish we've just caught our store here is quite bare!"  
Jesus then asked them to put them in groups, to sit down on the grass.  
Therefore they placed them in groups of one hundred from first to the last.  
Jesus then took the five loaves and the fish and looked up in the sky  
Thanking the Lord for His bounty it's upwards He sent His loud cry!  
After this prayer of thanks He did break the five loaves and the fish  
Which He gave TO His disciples to feed everyone from one dish!  
These started giving out food to those WHO were there hungry and waiting  
But the Lord God the five loaves and the fishes with more was equating,  
So that it happened that five thousand people had full satisfaction  
All had sufficient to eat while amazed at Lord Jesus's action!

**At this point Jesus, He asked His disciples to sail to Bethsaida,  
As He saw winds were now good for their boat to the far shore to guide her.  
Having dispatched them He went up the mountain side for there to pray,  
Where He stayed praying for quite a long time to the end of the day.  
As evening came the disciples' small boat was well into the lake,  
And He saw that with their oars against strong winds could not progress make!  
At the fourth watch of the night He went over to see how they were,  
As by that time the strong winds put their boat in a dangerous whirr!  
He had no problem in walking on water as He had the power  
And He caught up with His friends in the boat in much less than an hour.  
When the disciples saw Jesus thus walking, they thought Him a ghost  
They were all terrified and they thought they'd never reach the far coast!  
But Jesus spoke to them and said: "Take courage, it IS only I!"  
Then he climbed into the boat with them with this encouraging cry.  
As He climbed in then the wind it died down and they sailed through the calm,  
Jesus's presence to His disturbed friends was then surely a balm!**

**When they'd crossed over they anchored their boat and then jumped to the shore,  
People soon recognized Jesus and clearly more work was in store!  
They brought the sick on their mats as they knew how Lord Jesus could heal,  
They thought the sick could be healed if with Jesus a moment they'd steal!  
Sick people begged Him to let them just touch the far edge of His cloak,  
They were convinced that by SO doing they would be healed at one stroke!**

## Mark 7.

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All the strictest Pharisees kept traditions with great ease!  
They would never take their seat to sit down a meal to eat  
If they have not washed their hands in accord with Jewish trends!  
And they washed their cups and kettle ere to eating they could settle.  
So they once asked the Lord Jesus: “Why with customs you don’t please us?  
You eat food with hands unclean, on this law are you not keen?”  
He replied citing Isaiah (who is certainly no liar!):  
“With their lips they honour Me, but their hearts are far from Me!  
They do worship Me in vain, only words can them restrain!”  
“Hypocrites that you all are, munching words won’t take you far!  
God’s commands you have forgotten, your rules are by Man begotten!  
While your customs still abide, God’s commands you set aside!  
Moses said in ancient times: Honour parents all your lives!  
Death shall be the just deterrent for the curser of a parent!  
You think you need care no further since your gift’s not for your father,  
It was meant to be for God (for if not, you fear His rod!)  
Thus for father or for mother you will never need to bother;  
You’re annulling God’s commands, as tradition thus demands!  
Keep this truth now well in hand, so that you can understand:  
From outside what’ er comes in, cannot make a man unclean,  
What comes out from what’s within is the cause of the unclean!  
His disciples were not seeing, so they asked Him for the meaning:  
“From outside if something starts, it won’t enter in men’s hearts,  
It will go into their bellies, then discarded as bad jellies!  
Much that’s in men’s hearts has been, coming out makes men unclean:  
Sexual immorality, murder and adultery!  
Arrogance and much deceit, envy, malice and much greed,  
All these evils dwell within, making many men unclean!”

**In the ancient town of Tyre Jesus wished He could retire  
To a house to be alone, so to rest His flesh and bone!  
But this house, the folks could see it so it could not stay a secret!  
One poor woman had a daughter, a bad spirit, it had caught her;  
This poor woman was a Greek who Lord Jesus came to seek,  
She begged Jesus: from her daughter chase the demon that had fought her.  
“Let the children”, Jesus said, “first be given lots of bread!”  
“It’s not fit that on their bread all these dogs here should be fed!”  
The Greek lady from her side to Lord Jesus thus replied:  
“But the dogs under the table, children’s crumbs to eat are able!”  
Jesus said: “For this reply, your girl’s demon, it shall fly!”  
She went home and found her child, in a mood so fresh and mild,  
There was no trace of bad spirit, she had no more cause to fear it!**

**At the Lake of Galilee, He was brought a man to see:  
On both sides he had his ear but with neither could he hear,  
He was also almost mute, otherwise though quite astute.  
They asked Jesus for his healing, to his feelings thus appealing!  
Jesus led him from the throng, (his deaf-muteness taking on!),  
He allayed the deaf man’s fears, put His fingers in his ears,  
Then He took some of His spit on His fingers’ very tip,  
With it touched the mute man’s tongue, knowing it would touch his lung!  
He looked up the sky and cried: “Open up from side to side!”  
At this time the man was hearing, and to speak no longer fearing!  
Jesus told him to tell no-one, to give people naught to go on!  
All the same he kept on talking while among his friends was walking  
Who were struck with much amazement, talking of this every moment!**



## Mark 8.

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There a very big crowd had assembled all round;  
For some days they'd been there on this desolate ground.  
They had listened to Jesus, there teaching them much  
They had listened as they'd never heard any such!  
“These poor people are hungry! They've nothing to eat!  
They have listened and mostly they've stayed on their feet!  
They need something to eat or they'll fall on the way!”  
Said Lord Jesus in His most compassionate way!  
The disciples then answered: “In this lonely place,  
Of good food here to feed them there is not a trace!”  
“Will you count what we have, whether fish or some loaves!”  
But Lord Jesus' disciples could NOT guess His moves!  
“Some small fish, but of loaves we now have only seven!”  
Jesus said: “With God's help these will do as our leaven!”  
He gave thanks to the Lord and asked all to sit down,  
(There were four thousand people who covered the ground!)  
The disciples then gave out the food to the crowd,  
They were all satisfied and they thanked God aloud!

Pharisees wished that Jesus be put to the test,  
To convince them a sign from above would be best!  
Jesus sighed deeply and then He thus did reply:  
“Why is IT that you ON signs must always rely?  
But for this generation no sign shall be given,  
They should pray to the Lord so they might be forgiven!”  
Jesus and His disciples then boarded their boat  
To the opposite shore of the lake then they rowed.  
The disciples had not brought much bread to the boat,  
They had only one loaf they'd picked up on the road.  
Jesus said: “You take care of the Pharisees' yeast,  
Herod's yeast also takes on the form of a beast!”  
The disciples could not see the reasoning thread:  
“Maybe Jesus said this since we do not have bread!”  
“You are talking again of the lack of our bread!  
Don't you see that such lack you do not have to dread?  
With your eyes can you see? With your ears can you hear?  
When we fed the five thousand, how much was to spare?”  
“There were twelve baskets full of what folks could not eat!  
“The four thousand with bread we did manage to feed,  
But how much was there left thrown away at their feet?”  
“We filled seven big drums when they'd all had their treat!”  
“It's a wonder that this you still don't understand!  
But now pull on your oars so we reach that wide strand!”

When they came to Bethsaida they met a man blind,  
Whose friends knew that Lord Jesus was so very kind,  
So they begged the Lord Jesus for His healing touch  
As their blind friend did want to be healed very much!  
Jesus then from his friends He did lead him apart  
So that healing in earnest right then He could start:  
First He spat on the eyes of the man to be cured,  
Then He laid His hands on him to make him assured.  
Then He asked the blind man: "Can you see anything?"  
"I see people that walk like big trees in a ring!"  
Jesus then placed His hands yet again on those eyes  
At which point for this man proper sight did arise!  
Jesus warned him about him returning to town,  
As He DID not want TOO many TO track Him down!

Jesus asked His disciples: "What DO people think  
That I am or with whom my own person they link"  
"Some have said you're the Baptist or prophet of old,  
Some do SAY you're Elijah, we've also been told!"  
Then He asked: "And yourselves, who think you that I be?"  
Peter said: "The Messiah's the one whom we see!"  
He replied: "Do not tell anyone about me!"

At this time His disciples He started to teach,  
So the truth about Him in their hearts it could reach:  
"You must know the Messiah must YET suffer much,  
Be rejected by elders and priests and some such,  
He will BE put to death by the powers of Rome,  
Three days later He'll rise for the world to be shown  
That believers in Him have a heavenly home!"  
The disciples these words, they did not understand,  
And then Peter the doubt in his mind could not stand,  
So he turned and rebuked the Lord Jesus for this,  
(But his words came from Satan, they couldn't be his!)  
Jesus said: "These your thoughts do not come from above!  
They're inspired by the devil, they're not thoughts of Love!"  
Jesus then turning round to the crowd thus did speak  
For to tell what's involved for the ones Him would seek:

**“Anyone who would wish to come and follow me,  
Must forget his own self and a sufferer be,  
Only bearing your cross can you get to be free!  
For whoever is anxious to save his on life  
He will lose it in useless and self-seeking strife.  
But whoever does lose his own life just for Me  
He will save it since then his own soul will be free.  
So what can be the good if you gain all the world  
But your soul you have lost in a self centered whirl?  
What is there you can get in exchange for your soul?  
There is naught worthy if for your soul the bells toll!  
If you feel you’re ashamed of myself and my words,  
In this world that’s so full of adulterous herds,  
Then in sadness you’ll come to the end of your story:  
Of you I’LL be ashamed when I come in my glory.”**

## Mark 9.

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After six days Jesus took Peter, James, also John up a hilltop,  
At the high summit they were all alone and came to a full stop.  
Jesus' s clothes became dazzling white in a transfiguration;  
There came Elijah and Moses who joined Jesus in conversation.  
Then Peter said: "It is good to be here! Let us pitch you some tents  
One for each one in this wonderful place and then let us give thanks!"  
Then a white cloud came and covered them up and a voice could be heard:  
"This is my Son to whom I bid you listen, for all to be stirred!"  
Suddenly as they looked round, it was only Lord Jesus they saw.  
As they came down from the mountain then Jesus said: "It shall be Law  
That you do not tell of this to a soul till from death I have risen!"  
They then debated what meaning to "risen from death" might be given!  
They asked Him: "Why do the Teachers of Law say Elijah' ll come first?"  
Jesus said: "It's even so that Elijah restores things at first.  
Why is it written that this Son of Man in rejection must suffer?  
But I tell YOU that Elijah has come and has acted as buffer  
IN between MAN and the LORD as it IS written in holy Writ,  
So he has COME and they've DONE every-THING to him, yes, every bit!"

When they then joined all the other disciples, they saw a large crowd  
With some good teachers of Law who were arguing with them quite loud  
When people saw Jesus come they were greatly surprised at the sight,  
Then Jesus asked His disciples: "What is there in your verbal fight?"  
Then a man in the big crowd answered: "Here! I have brought you my son!  
He's got a demon and can't utter one single word, oh not one!  
When the bad spirit attacks him it just throws him down on the ground,  
And he then foams at the mouth with a gnashing of teeth he is bound.  
Then he becomes very stiff and I do not know what I should do.  
Your good disciples could not drive it out so I've come to you!"  
Jesus then said to them: "How unbelieving you people can be?  
How long must I still be WITH you so you can begin to believe me?  
Bring me this boy!" and his father did bring him in hope of a cure  
But the bad spirit the sight of Lord Jesus it could not endure;  
It threw the boy in a fit and then MADE him fall down to the ground  
Foam did come out of his mouth as he kept rolling round and around  
"How long has he been like this?" the Lord Jesus enquired of the father

**“Ever since he was a child” he replied to Lord Jesus so sadly,  
“It’s tried to kill him with fire and water thus scaring us badly!  
Help us and take pity on us if with him to help us you can!”  
“Everything is very possible if there is faith in a man!”  
“I do have faith!” thus the father cried out, “but it isn’t enough!”  
Help me to have much more faith so that life need not be quite so rough!”  
Jesus then noticed the crowd closing in on Him so that He cried:  
“I do command thee to leave this poor boy so do get thee outside!”  
Then the bad spirit did scream and did throw the boy into a fit  
But it came out of the boy and they never heard any more of it!  
But the boy lay on the ground very stiff as if he were quite dead,  
Then Jesus raised him right up and this was the end of their dread!  
Jesus’ disciples then asked Him why they couldn’t drive out this spirit.  
Jesus replied: “For this kind it is only firm prayer will drive it!”**

**Jesus then with His disciples departed for old Galilee,  
He didn’t want folks to know where He was so He stayed by the sea  
Since He was trying to tell His disciples what WOULD happen soon  
He said: “I’ll BE handed over to those who will kill me this moon  
But three days later I’ll rise up again as it has been foretold!”  
This the disciples did not understand but to ask were not bold.  
Once the disciples were engaged in an argument hotly debated,  
It was about who was great and therefore who was underrated.  
When Jesus asked them what they were discussing they just remained silent.  
But Jesus knew what was in their hearts and said in voice strident:  
“Whoever wants to be first, he must place himself last as a servant”  
He then took one little child and before His disciples He placed him.  
Then put His arms round the child and said while He kindly embraced him:  
“If in my name you do welcome just one of these children, you will  
Welcome me also and therefore my Father as it is His Will!**

**John said to Jesus: “Oh Teacher! A man driving demons we saw,  
He was a stranger so we tried to stop him as this was your Law!”  
Jesus then told them: “Do not try to stop him as he who does wonders  
In my own name then he cannot do bad things, whatever he ponders!  
If someone is not against us, he must then perforce be all for us!  
I do assure you that any who helps you since you are for Jesus  
Will in due course then receive his reward because HE is thus for us!”**

**If anyone were to cause one of these little ones to lose faith,  
It would be better for him to be thrown in the sea in disgrace.  
If you lose faith through the use of your hand then it's better cut off  
Life with one hand is no joke but two hands in hell fire is more rough!  
If you lose faith through the use of your foot then it's better cut off,  
Life with one foot's not too bad, but with two feet in hell is no laugh!  
If you lose faith through the use of your eye then it's better cut out,  
What is the use of two eyes down in hell when the Law you did flout!  
Worms that do eat you there will never die and you'll languish for ever,  
Fire burning hot there can NOT be put out as this hell has no river!  
Purification by FIRE is the LOT that we ALL must endure,  
Just as our sacrifice IS purified by the salt, to be sure!  
Do have the salt of good friendship among you which should never fade,  
So live in peace always WITH one another and don't be afraid!"**

## Mark 10.

Later Jesus left the area, crossing Jordan to Judea,  
Where big crowds then came to hear what His teaching would declare,  
Though there were some Pharisees, traps to set Him it would please!  
Some then asked Him: "On divorce, what do our laws there enforce?"  
Jesus answered in small doses: "What says here the law of Moses?"  
"Write a notice of divorce, and your wife must leave, of course!"  
"Moses thus was bent to preach, since you were so hard to teach!"  
But Lord Jesus also told how creation did unfold:  
"When first people were created, male and female they were rated,  
Man will leave his former life and unite with his new wife,  
And the two will now be one, no more two but only one.  
The Lord God makes this encounter which no man must tear asunder!"  
They had problems on the latter, so asked Jesus on the matter.  
Jesus then tried to explain, making things thus very plain:  
"If a man divorce his wife, since perhaps they'd had some strife  
And he marries yet another, then his act can be no other  
Than against his wife adult'ry, which is sin and not so paltry!  
In the same way if a woman does divorce the one who's her man,  
And she married yet another, then her act can be no other  
Then against her man adult'ry, which is sin and not so paltry!"

People brought children to Jesus who said TO Him: "Will you bless us!"  
The disciples they did scold these good parents, who were told  
Not to trouble the great Master to which Jesus thus did answer:  
"Let the children come to me, as like these you have to be  
If to heaven you aspire, try to learn their childish fire!  
For the Kingdom to receive, like a child you must believe,  
In the Kingdom you'll not enter if you don't have childish wonder!"  
In his arms He took the children, blessed them AS sign of the Kingdom!

"What is it that will suffice for to have eternal life?"  
Asked a man who'd come to Jesus, "I'll be happy if you tell us!"  
"The commandments, you do know! Doing murder is no go!  
Don't commit adultery; stealing goods is not to be!  
Don't accuse anyone falsely; do not cheat and live too coarsely,  
For your parents have respect; you'll find all this in the Text!"  
Thus spoke Jesus in reply but the man did further cry:  
"Ever since I was a child, with these edicts I've complied!"  
Jesus gave a loving look, saying what's not in the Book:  
"You need only do one thing: all that's yours you hither bring,  
Sell it all for lots of money, for the poor who number many;  
Then decide to follow me, you'll be rich as rich can be:  
Life in heaven lasts for ever, riches here is not so clever!"

When the man had heard this message, gloom came over his whole visage  
As this man had much great wealth, likely got through furtive stealth,  
So he sadly went away as he could not change his way!

“Those who wealth elect to hoard find it hard to know the Lord,  
In the Kingdom of the Lord few rich people come aboard!”  
Thus spoke Jesus to His friends, stressing these noteworthy trends!  
“Oh my children! It is harder for the rich to see my Father,  
Than a camel one might wheedle through the eye of just one needle!”  
The disciples were amazed. They said : “Who then can be saved?”  
Jesus looked straight in their eyes with a look that all defies:  
“Human beings cannot do it, but you can with God’s own Spirit! “  
Peter then said: “We have left all, and we followed when you did call!”  
Jesus then said: “I will tell you, where you find the greatest value:  
If you leave your kin and brothers, give your property to others,  
Leave your mother and your father, as inside you feel you’d rather  
Follow me and find the truth and accept it in good sooth,  
Your reward will be immense, multiplied by tens and tens,  
At the end of all your strife you’ll receive eternal life!  
Many who now will be first and for wealth and power thirst  
In the end they will be last and regret their doubtful past!  
Many who are now the last, will be first at my repast!”

Jesus took the twelve aside and in them thus did confide:  
“To Jerusalem we’ll go, where will come the final blow:  
I’ll be handed to the chief priest after WE’ve had our last joint feast,  
Me the Gentiles they will try and then sentence me to die  
They will mock me, they will whip me, in the end they’ll also kill me,  
But in three days I’ll arise, to the people’s great surprise!”

Zebedee’s sons James and John a discussion carried on,  
In the end they asked Lord Jesus: “With our problem please do help us!”  
“To what do you seek the answer in a problem you can’t master?”  
“When you’re on your rightful throne in the Kingdom of your own,  
Can we both sit at your side, one on left and one on right?”  
“You don’t know what you are asking, can you drink my cup of suffering?  
Have you two not realized that with pain you’d be baptized?  
“Yes, we do!” the two did answer, “We’d do all for You, our Master!”  
“If indeed that’s what you think, you shall drink the cup I’ll drink!  
You will also be baptized in the way I’ll be baptized;  
But I do not have the right to say who’ll be on my right,  
Nor who will sit on my left, that choice to my Father’s left!”  
When the others of this heard, to much anger they were stirred!  
Jesus called them all together, thus explaining them the matter:



**“For a ruler of the heathen disobedience is mere treason;  
He who rules has all the power, every minute, every hour!  
But for you it’s not the same, this to show you’s why I came!  
Those aspiring to be great, must adopt a servant’s state,  
If you want to be the first, be a slave or you’ll be cursed!  
I have not come to be served, but to serve as you have heard!**

**One blind beggar, Bartimaeus, asked the help of the Lord Jesus:  
“Pity me, oh son of David!” very loudly he would say it!  
By the crowd he was then scolded but events then thus unfolded:  
Jesus heard and said : “Do call him!” so to Jesus folks did bring him  
“What do you want me to do?” said He as near him He drew.  
“Oh good Teacher!”, said the man, “I do want to see again!”  
“Go!” Lord Jesus, He did tell, “Your strong faith has made you well!”  
And at once the man could see, overjoyed for being free!**

## Mark 11.

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The disciples and Jesus when they reached the Mount,  
(Which was called Mount of Olives, its trees made that sound!)  
Jesus sent some ahead with the following words:  
“You must go to the next village after two thirds  
Of a mile where you’ll find a young colt lightly tied;  
Then you’ll bring here to me this young colt for my ride.  
If the owner does ask why you take his young colt,  
You must say that your Master does need it. Be bold!  
You must also explain that he’ll send it right back  
Since He needs it to ride on a very short track!”  
So they went and they found such a colt in the street  
It was tied to the door of a house by its feet.  
While they struggled to make the young animal free,  
Some asked: “Why you untie this young colt? Let us see!”  
Then they said what Lord Jesus had told them to say,  
So that then they could peacefully lead it away.  
To Lord Jesus they brought the young colt in great haste,  
And their cloaks and their coats on the animal placed.  
Then Lord Jesus He mounted and started His ride  
Over cloaks on the road placed there FROM far and wide!  
Also some cut some branches to spread on the road,  
For the colt to walk over with ITS sacred load.

There were there many people who started to shout:  
“Offer praise to the Lord, all you folks round about!  
Blessed be all who come in the name of the Lord,  
In the Kingdom of David let God be adored!”

On the road Jesus felt need for something to eat  
When there was further on a fig tree that looked neat  
It had many green leaves but would IT have some fruit?  
To appease Jesus’ hunger how well it would suit.  
When He came to the tree He saw only the green  
Of the leaves where in season the figs would have been.  
Jesus said to the tree: “No one ever will eat  
Any figs from your branches as travelers’ treat!”

When they reached the old town to the Temple He went  
Where some merchants they traded and borrowed and lent!  
Jesus then overturned many tables and stools  
Of these merchants who plainly were breaking the rules.

He then said to the people so loud and so clear:  
“God said: ‘My temple’s MUST be a house for your prayer’  
But it seems you have turned it inTO a thieves’ lair!”  
The chief priests and the teachers of Law this they heard,  
Which a plan to kill HIM in their minds it bestirred.  
But they feared all the people who were so amazed  
Which in plotting His death for them problems it raised!

The next morning when THEY took the road to return  
In the distance the fig-tree they just could discern.  
It was dead all the WAY to its roots in the ground!  
“Look! The tree is now dead on which curse you did sound!”  
The disciples were saying as they were surprised  
That at Jesus’ command the fig-TREE could have died!  
Jesus answered them: “You must have faith in the Lord!  
Since whatever you ask Him with one full accord  
Will be granted as you have asked things come to be!  
If you tell this big hill to fall into the sea  
And inside your own heart you believe it will be  
Then it shall be accomplished by faith, don’t you see?  
What you ask for in prayer in faith very firm  
And believe you’ve received it as one fair return,  
Then whatever you’ve asked for, it shall then be given  
Because for fulfillment with faith you have striven!  
When you stand and you pray and forgive those who hurt,  
To forgive your own sins the Lord God will assert!”

Jesus met the chief priests and the teachers of Law  
When to prayer in the Temple he wished to withdraw.  
But the chief priests then asked Him: ‘Who gave you the right  
To the things that you do in all places in sight?’  
Jesus answered them: “Look! Ere I give you my answer,  
I want YOU first the following problem to master.  
So then IF to my question you DO answer well  
Surely THEN of my rights I shall willingly tell.  
Did John’s right to baptize come from God or from man?  
They began then to argue the matter this way:  
“If his right came from God is the answer we say,  
Then why DID we not think what he said was correct  
But if man is the answer that we must elect  
Then this crowd who revered him might kill us right here”  
Therefore THIS was the answer that Jesus did hear:  
“Teacher! WE do not KNOW if it WAS man or God!”  
“Neither WILL I then TELL you why THIS path I’ve trod!”

## Mark 12.

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Here is a parable Jesus related to those in His district:

“There was a man who once planted a vineyard and built a fence round it,  
He dug a hole for the winepress and built a watch tower to guard it,  
He let the vineyard to tenants he trusted and left in good spirit.  
When the time came for to gather the harvest he sent back a slave,  
Bringing his share of the harvest for duty to him that he gave.  
But the bad tenants, as soon as they saw him they beat him most cruelly,  
And sent him back empty handed. Oh, HOW could they act like this, really?  
Then yet another was sent to the vineyard who suffered the same fate.  
More slaves were sent who were beaten as well and some killed by the front gate!  
Then the right owner did send his own son, who’d be surely respected,  
But when the tenants, they recognized him when his share he requested,  
They then decided that: “He is the heir! If we kill him all’s ours!”  
So they just killed him and threw him right out (they were in Satan’s powers!)  
What will the owner now do to the tenants when HE returns home?  
When he comes home and he sees what’s been done he will break every bone  
Of every tenant till each one is dead and he is left alone  
To think of letting to different tenants who are better known.  
Then Jesus quoted them this piece of Scripture while standing there tall:  
“Stone which the builders rejected turned out most important of all!  
This by the Lord it was done, what a wonderful sight we have here!”  
These Jewish leaders they wished to arrest Him since it was quite clear  
That the wine parable WAS aimed against them but they didn’t dare!  
Some Pharisees and some lawyers and members of King Herod’s party  
Were sent to Jesus to ask a trick question they thought out so smartly!  
They came to Him and said: “We know that Truth you have always defended,  
Treating all people with courtesy and with much sympathy blended,  
That irrespective of whether the people have high or low status!  
We have a question of Law and your answer we’d like you to give us:  
Is it against our own laws to be paying the Emperor’s taxes?  
Or can we say that it’s true in this case that the Law here relaxes?”  
But Jesus saw trough the trick and said: “Why are you trying to trap me?  
But if I solve your trick problem I’m sure that you’ll then want to clap me!  
Bring me a large silver coin and then let us observe what is on it!”  
They brought Him one and He asked: “It’s whose face and whose name that is on it?”  
“IT is the FACE of the EMP’ror of FAR distant ROME that we see!”  
“What is the Emperor’s, surely by right, paid to him it should be,  
But what is God’s you must pay as your tithe for your souls to be free!”

Those that were called Sadducees don't believe that we'll rise from the dead.  
Some Sadducees came along and the following problem they set:  
"Moses, he gave us this law: "If a married man die with no offspring  
Then his own brother must marry the widow which might then a child bring!  
Once there were seven good brothers, the eldest got married but died  
Leaving no children so then the next brother with this law complied:  
Married the widow but soon passed away, with the widow still barren.  
So the third brother he married the widow since he was quite daring!  
This seven times was repeated but still not one child would be born.  
It then so happened the widow, she died as with grief she was torn.  
When they all rise from the dead to which brother the wife is belonging?  
She'd married each of the brothers and each one for her will be longing!"  
Jesus then answered: "You're wrong, as of Scriptures the knowledge you lack!  
When the dead rise to new life, to the old life they cannot look back.  
They'll be like angels in heaven and therefore they will have no spouses  
Life ever after is not like what you've become used to in houses!  
Have you not read in one chapter of Moses of God's lighted tree?  
God said to him: 'I am Abraham's God which I AM telling thee,  
Also of Isaac and Jacob, you'll know that from this burning tree!  
He is not God of the dead but of life! See how wrong you can be?!"

One of the scribes who had listened to Jesus replying so well  
Asked: "What's the principal law above all other laws? Can you tell?"  
Jesus replied that the first one is: "Hark! Israel to the Lord!  
He is your God and is your only Lord whom with love you'll adore,  
Whom with your heart and your soul and your mind and your strength you shall love  
And love your neighbour as you love yourself as decreed from above.  
There is no law that is greater than these: they command you to love!"  
Then the scribe said: "You have spoken in Truth, there is only one God,  
There is no other to whom we aspire from our earthly sod!  
With all our heart we must love Him, with all our strength and all our mind,  
And we must love all our neighbours with all the love we have inside!  
These to the Lord are worth more than burnt offerings we might have tried!"  
Jesus, He thought that this scribe had some wisdom and so he replied:  
"You are not far from the Kingdom of God, for the right road you've plied!"

Jesus asked: "Why say you that the Messiah is David's descendant?  
When David said, while inspired by the Spirit in style so resplendent:  
'It is the Lord who did say to my Lord to sit here on my right  
While I your enemies crush underfoot and so end this your fight!'  
David himself called him Lord therefore I ask you how can it be  
That the Messiah King David's descendant can be, don't you see?"

**Jesus thus spoke to the crowd: “Just watch out for the lawmen around  
In their long robes they do like to be greeted in our market ground  
They use the best seats in our synagogues and at every big feast  
They take advantage of widows and rob those who do have the least;  
They make a show of reciting long prayers pretending devotion,  
Punishment for them will be more severe than a storm on the ocean!”**

**Jesus once sat by the treasury box near the Temple’s great door,  
Where people came to deposit donations due to the poor.  
Many rich people put lots in the box when a poor widow came  
She just dropped two copper coins in the box as her share in this game!  
Jesus then called His disciples together and spoke in this way:  
“I tell you that this poor widow put more in the box on this tray  
Than all the others who paid out of what they could easily spare,  
But this poor woman put all that she needed for her daily fare!”**

## Mark 13.

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As they were leaving the Temple one OF the disciples cried out:  
“Look at this wonderful Temple, it’s beautiful, I have no doubt!”  
Jesus replied: “Do you see these great buildings of worship right there?  
No single stone will be left in its place! There’ll be nothing to spare!”

Jesus was sitting, surrounded by olives, across from the Temple  
When some disciples did ask Him to make these His prophecies simple:  
“Tell us what things will take place which will show us the time is approaching  
For some of these dread events, to foresee them will you give some coaching?”  
Jesus said: “Be on your guard and don’t LET any person deceive you!  
Many men WILL claim to speak for Me BUT all they’ll WANT is to cheat you!  
They will say: ‘I am the one’ and many folks will be deceived.  
Do not be troubled if news of big battles you will have received.  
These things must happen but IT does not mean that the END, it has come!  
Countries will fight one another and many will thus be undone!  
Famines and earthquakes will come everywhere as in birth-pangs the pains  
But you, yourselves must remain well on guard while this chaos it reigns!  
You’ll be arrested and taken to court and in synagogues beaten,  
You must beware when for My sake some rulers and kings you’ll be meeting:  
Your task shall be that the news of God’s Kingdom to them must be teaching,  
But ere the end comes the Gospel to all people you must be preaching!  
When you’re arrested and taken to court you must NOT think beforehand  
What you must say, as the words you will say will not come from your own land  
But will be given to you by the Spirit of God through His breath!  
Men will hand over their own brothers for them to be put to death,  
Fathers will also betray their own children for them to be killed,  
Children will turn against parents whose death they devoutly have willed!  
You will be hated by many because you’ve been following me,  
But all the ones who hold out to the end they all sa-ved will be!”

**“When you see wild desolation where it should not ever have been,  
Those in Judea in flight from the towns to the hills will be seen.  
Those on the roof of their houses should not go inside for their things.  
Those in the fields should stay there and await what this dreadful day brings!  
It will be terrible for pregnant women and for those who suckle,  
If it comes during the Winter you will see that no-one will chuckle!  
Those days, they will be far worse than was any day since the Creation,  
Nor will there be such bad days to be suffered by any one nation!  
But the Lord God has diminished the number days that are bad,  
As otherwise not a man could survive, not a girl nor a lad.  
Then if there’s someone who says to you: ‘Look! The Messiah is here!’  
Do not believe him as many false prophets are sure to appear!  
They will perform many wonders in order to deceive e’ en the chosen!  
Be on your guard and look out for all those who do have the foot cloven!”**

**“After the times of the troubles you’ll see that the sun will grow dark,  
Know that the moon will not shine and the sky without stars will be stark!  
Powers in space will be pulled from their course and so then you must hark:  
This Son of Man will appear in the clouds in much glory and power,  
He’ll send the angels all over the earth at this so fateful hour  
To gather God’s chosen people from one end of Earth to the other  
So that each person thus gathered can stay to all others a brother!”**

**Let me now tell you a lesson to learn by just watching a fig tree:  
If you will watch its new shoots you can tell what the days are to be;  
So when its branches start putting out leaves and become green and tender  
You know that Spring has gone by and that Summer is getting much nearer.  
In the same way when you see the things happen I told you about,  
You will then know that the time is now ready and you’ll have no doubt!  
Do not forget that some who are now living will still be alive  
When these events start occurring and you’ll be there when they arrive!  
I also tell you that heaven and earth they could both pass away,  
But my own words, they will live on for ever, they’ll not go astray!”**

**“No one, however, does know the right day or the hour to come,  
Neither the Son nor the angels in heaven can know how it’s done!  
Only the Father in heaven does know when this bell it will toll  
Be on the watch and alert and so do not endanger your soul!  
It will be like when a man goes away and leaves servants in charge,  
And the door keeper he asks to keep watch, so his burden is large!  
Be on your guard as you do not know when the good master comes back,  
Midnight or evening, before dawn or sunrise, this knowledge you lack!  
If he comes suddenly, finding you sleeping, then woe is to you!  
Be always watchful and do not relax is what I say to you!**



## Mark 14.

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**It was now two days before the celebrations of Passover;  
Temple priests and their good lawmen Jesus' fate were thinking over;  
They sought ways for to arrest him, though it must be done in secret,  
But if done during the feasting, crowds with riots they might treat it!**

**Jesus was a guest with Simon, who was sick with skin infection.  
While He sat at table eating, someone did rouse His attention:  
There a woman was approaching with a jar of alabaster  
Full of some expensive perfume, which as well-to-do had classed her.  
She then broke the jar of perfume and she poured it on Lord Jesus.  
Then some people said in anger: "What a waste is what you've shown us!  
Could have sold this precious perfume, with the money helped the poor!  
Jesus has no need of perfume and its value's out the door!"**

**Jesus said: "Leave her alone! Work it out now, on your own!  
You will always have the poor, but you won't have me much more!  
She did well in what she did, her intentions were not hid,  
On my body she poured oil, to prepare me for my toil  
Which will end in my own death, with the oil in my last breath!  
She does have a heart of gold, when the Gospel story's told,  
This her act will be related, so for ever she'll be feted"**

**Judas was his fateful name, it's for treason that he came!  
The chief priests he did seek out, who knew what he was about!  
He'd betray his own good Master, if good payment were the answer,  
So some circumstance he sought, to make good his evil thought.**

**On the first day of the feast of the bread without the yeast  
The disciples, they asked Jesus: "For Passover, where d' you want us?"  
Jesus gave them these instructions, having planned out all their actions:  
"In the city just ahead, to a man you will be led  
Who'll carry a jar of water, him to follow then you ought to,  
To the house that he will enter, at which house you'll ask the owner:  
'Teacher asks where is the place where our feasting can take place?'  
He will take you up the stairs to a room that he prepares;  
He will know that it's for Jesus, so you make it ready for us!"  
They did as they'd been instructed and found all as they expected  
So for their Passover meal they prepared all with great zeal.  
At sundown when they were able, they all joined the festive table.  
While they were at table eating, the Lord Jesus started speaking:  
"One of you here will betray me, it is one who's eating with me!"**

The disciples were upset, each to Jesus this he said:  
“It’s not me that you did mean?” as towards Him they did lean!  
Jesus said, to clear the air: “It will be one of you here!  
He with me will dip his bread, in his heart he wants me dead!  
It is true I have to die, writ in Scripture, that is why.  
But how dreadful for the one who this treason will have done!  
Would have been best for this one, if his life had ne’ r begun!”

Jesus took a piece of bread, broke it and to God He said:  
“Thank you, Father, for this food, in all things You are so good!”  
“This is my body, this bread!” in a loud voice this He said,  
As He gave it to the others, treating them as his own brothers.  
Then He took a cup of wine and said: “Let this be a sign,  
It’s my blood poured out for all, for new covenant it’s the call!  
Not again will I drink wine till for new wine comes the sign  
In the Kingdom of the Lord who by all will be adored!”  
Then they all did sing a psalm, for their souls it was a balm!

“All of you will run away; this is what the scriptures say:  
‘God, the shepherd He will kill, with the sheep all scattered still’  
When to life I have been raised, I will meet you, God be praised;  
In the place called Galilee, one another we shall see!”  
Peter said: “I’d never leave you, even if the others failed you!”  
Then Lord Jesus said to Peter (one who had been a good fisher!):  
“Ere the cock crows twice tonight you’ll deny me in great fright!”  
Peter answered much more strongly: “I will never do things wrongly!  
You I will never deny, even if I have to die!”  
To Gethsemane they went, Jesus there on prayer was bent.  
He said: “Sit here, while I pray!”, though some three He led away.  
Much distress and heart-felt anguish He did feel and so did languish  
Then to speak thus He did start: “There’s much sorrow in my heart!  
I feel crushed by heavy air! You keep watch and stay right near!”  
He went on a little further and He prayed thus to the Father:  
“Father! You have all the power! Can you save me from this hour?  
From this anguish I would run, but Your Will, it shall be done!  
He returned to those He left then He saw that they had slept!  
So to Peter he was saying: ‘Simon! Why is it you’re sleeping?  
Could you not stay wide awake for an hour for my sake?  
You must keep the watch and pray, keep the tempter well away!  
Though the spirit might be willing, yet the flesh is just a weakling!’”  
Jesus went once more to pray while the rest to sleep gave way.  
They could not keep open eyes, this in spite of honest tries!  
When He came back for the third time, it was time for Judas’ great crime:  
“Do you still insist on sleeping? It’s enough now of your resting!  
It is now the Son of Man is betrayed by just one man,  
Do get up and let us go, we must face the coming woe!”

The Lord Jesus was still speaking when this Judas was arriving.  
With him came some men-at-arms, meant to send up the alarms  
These came from the Temple elders, now advancing like true soldiers.  
Judas then said to the crowd (of his role he was so proud!):  
“Watch the man that I will kiss, then you’ll know that it is this!  
Thus you’ll know whom to arrest, otherwise you’ll not have guessed!”  
So when Judas had arrived, to Lord Jesus thus he cried:  
“Teacher!” and he kissed his face, and of shame he felt no trace!  
This way Jesus was arrested by the soldiers all steel-breasted.  
While they did so, Jesus spoke thus: “You must know that I am Jesus!  
Did you have to come with swords, acting for your overlords?  
I was in the Temple teaching, many days to you there preaching,  
You did not then take me, did you? But the Scriptures, they must come true!”  
The disciples at this time ran away at danger’s sign!

To the High Priest Jesus was brought who to blame Him causes now sought;  
There were elders of high ranking who in his house now were gathering.  
Peter ‘d followed far behind, till a courtyard he did find.  
He sat down there with the bowmen placed there by the powers Roman,  
He kept warm there by their fire, pondering his fate so dire!  
The Chief Priest sought a solution for Lord Jesus’ execution:  
Evidence they could not find which in law the case would bind,  
Witnesses told many lies, contradicting their own cries.  
Some stood up and told this story, putting Jesus in false glory:  
‘This great Temple I’ll tear up but in three days build it up!’  
Was what they’d heard Jesus say, but they were in disarray,  
They each other contradicted, so their words were not respected.  
The High Priest then said to Jesus: “Why is it that you can’t tell us  
Your reply to your accusers, I don’t think they’ll be the losers!”  
But Lord Jesus He kept quiet, so He would not cause a riot!  
Then the High Priest with this question tried to break down Jesus’ bastion:  
“Are you our longed for Messiah, Son of blessed God, our Sire?”  
“It is as you say!”, He answered, with composure that He’d mastered,  
Adding stress with just a nod: “On the right hand side of God  
You will see the Son of Man in the clouds where all began!”  
The High Priest then tore his robes, “There is no need for more probes!  
It is blasphemy you’ve heard, what is then your final word?”  
For one guilty of blaspheming, they all thought that they were dealing  
With a crime that death deserved so the Law would be observed.  
Some became at this point rude, with behaviour very crude  
On Lord Jesus they did spit and they asked Him: “Who was it?”  
When blindfolded Him they’d struck shouting: “You are out of luck!”

**Peter was still in the courtyard, thinking how life, it was now marred  
When a servant of the Priest came, who knew Jesus now had great fame!  
She looked Peter in the eyes and she said in some surprise:  
“With that Jesus you’ve been seen, His follower you have been!”  
Peter answered: “I don’t know! I don’t know this man of woe!”  
As this falsehood Peter sowed, at that instant a cock crowed!  
But the servant still insisted she had Peter rightly listed,  
Peter answered that was lies, twixt some more loud hostile cries.  
Then a bystander said: “See? You too are from Galilee!  
So you must be of His crowd!” said she in a voice so loud.  
Peter said: “In truth, I swear! I’ve not known Him anywhere!”  
Then again the fateful cock, it now crowed the five o’ clock!  
Simon Peter then remembered that his answers had been numbered!  
The Lord Jesus, He had said that to three lies he’d be led,  
Three times he’d deny his Master ere the cock twice it would answer.  
Bitterly and loud he cried as he thrice now will have lied!**

## Mark 15.

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Early during the morning the priests met again  
With the Council of Elders and lawmen and then  
They discussed how they could the Lord Jesus condemn  
Which presented some problems for these learned men!  
They put Jesus in chains and then took Him to Pilate  
Who with strict Roman law this their problem could state it.  
Pilate's question was: "Are you the King of the Jews?"  
Jesus said: "So you say", not giving any cues.  
The chief priests were accusing Lord Jesus of much,  
Pilate said: "Will you not answer even to such  
Accusations these lawmen against you have brought?"  
Jesus would not in legalist tangles be caught,  
He refused to reply and did not say a word  
Which to Pilate a great deal of shock it conferred.

At each Passover it was Pilatus's rule  
Liberating a prisoner from prison who'll  
Be allowed to be freed as a mark of the feast,  
Thus he thought that this way the peace would be increased!  
One Barabbas by name as a rebel was jailed  
Though by Jews as a zealot and hero was claimed.  
When the crowd asked of Pilate the Passover gift  
Then Pilatus his voice to a high pitch did lift:

"Now the time has arrived for you people to choose:  
Do you want me to free this your King of the Jews?"  
But the crowd by the priests had been so strongly stirred  
That they shouted out loud they Barabbas preferred.  
"But then what shall I do with this King of the Jews?"  
Said Pilatus inquiring, expecting some clues.  
"You must crucify Him, it is what He'll deserve!"  
"But what crime is it that on Him death should confer?"  
"Crucify Him!" they yelled with a thunderous shout  
(Pilate was not quite sure what this was all about!)  
From the crowd he thought best to have quiet and peace,  
To the life of Barabbas he gave a long lease!  
Execution of Jesus he left to the Jews  
So the priests Jewish laws in this case now could use.

Then the soldiers took Jesus inside to the court  
As objections from others they thus could abort.  
Then they clothed Jesus in one great long purple gown  
And then from thorny branches they wove Him a crown.  
They did put this thorn-crown on Lord Jesus's head  
Then to much mock-saluting of Him they were led.  
They said loudly: "Long live this our King of the Jews!  
You are now the thorn-king, so then how could you lose?"  
They bowed down and they fell on their knees to the king,  
Then they spat on Him which gave saluting more sting!  
When they finished this mocking, they took off the cloak  
And they started the walk to the cross with the folk.  
There was one man named Simon who then came across  
And the soldiers constrained him to take Jesus' cross.  
They took Jesus uphill to the "Place of the Skull"  
Where they gave Him some wine which with myrrh they did mull.  
Jesus would not accept and did NOT drink at all,  
To the tree they then nailed Him, so He would not fall!  
Then the soldiers who'd nailed Him, they threw a few dice  
To share out Jesus' clothes without paying a price!  
"Here's the King of the Jews" on the tree it was writ,  
Which was Pilate's command whose firm order was it!  
There were two other men at that time crucified  
Being robbers, this way with the law they complied.  
There were people around who were mocking while passing  
Saying: 'If you are truly the King ever lasting  
If indeed you can build a new Temple in days  
To get down from this cross you must surely have ways!"  
The chief priests and the lawyers who passed also jeered:  
"To save others from illness He had never feared  
But a path for His own life He cannot have cleared!"  
"You, Messiah, if from your cross you can take leave,  
You can be very sure that we then shall believe!"  
And the robbers beside him, they also threw jeers  
Even though their own fate must have filled them with fears!

At noon hour the country turned totally dark,  
And it lasted three hours this period stark!  
Then at three o' clock Jesus cried (and all alerted):  
"Oh my God! Why have you me so badly deserted?"  
People heard Him and said: "Elijah He calls!  
Let us wait if he comes and a wonder installs!"  
Then one took a small sponge soaked in wine on a stick,  
Which he held up to Jesus so it He could lick  
Saying: "Wait! Let us see if Elijah will come!"  
Jesus uttered a cry and His life, it was done!

**Then the big Temple curtain was all cleft in twain  
And there was a big storm with much thunder and rain!  
Then the man from the army on guard at the cross  
He cried out with emotion: "This is a great loss!  
As this man He was truly the one Son of God!"  
There were women who'd watched, those who thither had trod:  
Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James  
Who all thought that Lord Jesus had had noble aims!**

**Then one Joseph of Arimethea arrived  
In the meetings of Council to reason had tried  
To save Jesus as in Him he firmly believed,  
Who'd bring in God's own Kingdome for those who are grieved!  
'Twas the day before Sabbath, the readying day  
And so he went to Pilate and thus he did pray:  
"The dead body of Jesus to me you'll release?"  
But then Pilate was stunned at such early decease.  
He then called the staff sergeant and asked him: "How long  
He's been dead? But be careful! You must not be wrong!"  
When the sergeant reported Pilatus agreed  
That he could have the body, respecting his creed.  
Joseph then bought a sheet made of linen so pure,  
Wrapped the body in this so that it would be sure  
On its trip to the tomb which was hacked out of rock  
To the entrance he rolled a big rock as a block  
Mary Magdalene and other women who followed  
They did watch what he did in the tomb oh so hallowed!**

## Mark 16.

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After the Sabbath was over then Mary the mother of James  
And Mary Magdalene went to the tomb at the sun's early rays,  
Taking some ointments and spices to bring to Lord Jesus' s tomb.  
How shall they move the big rock from the front was the point that did loom  
As the problem to solve as they walked on the road for their Lord to anoint,  
But the rock, it had been moved, so to worry about it there was no more point!  
SO they then entered the tomb and they saw a young man dressed in white.  
They thought he might be an angel because he was shining so bright!  
“Don't be alarmed!” the man said, “I do know that it's Jesus you seek.  
He is not here, but I tell you the story 's approaching its peak.  
He has been raised, see His grave-clothes are here where He lay!  
Go and find Peter and all the disciples to whom you must say  
That at this time He is going ahead of you to Galilee  
As He did tell you but it was too hard for you all then to see!”  
So they went out and they ran from the tomb, all distressed with much fright.  
They did not know whether they should believe the young man dressed in white.  
After Lord Jesus was raised from the dead very early that day,  
To Mary Magdalene He first appeared in a comforting way.  
Mary then went to tell all the disciples who were in despair  
But when they heard that Lord Jesus was living they just did not dare  
To thus accept that the message was true even though Mary'd seen Him  
They must have thought that she'd seen someone else as it couldn't have been Him.  
Jesus was seen by two other disciples who then told all the others  
But even so they could not yet believe though they were just like brothers!  
Last of all Jesus appeared to His trusted disciples eleven  
As they were eating and talking about the new Kingdom of Heaven.  
He did reproach them for not having had enough faith in His coming.  
He also said to them: “Those you baptize also those who believe will be saved  
For those who do not believe a sad road to damnation is paved.  
Those who believe will be given the power to perform many wonders  
And in my name they will drive out the demons as their strong voice thunders.  
They will be able to speak in strange tongues as they carry my message,  
On their long journeys the message of Love. It will give them free passage!  
If they pick up any snakes or drink poison, they will escape harm,  
When they lay hands on the sick they'll be healed who will feel it as balm!  
After this talk with His well trusted friends He was taken to Heaven  
Having made sure that His message got through to His faithful eleven.  
So He resumed His own place on the right of Almighty, the Father  
And His disciples they preached what they'd learned in lands farther and farther.  
God's Holy Spirit accompanied them while they spread Jesus' word,  
People believed them since during their work many wonders occurred.