





**THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST:  
AN EPIC POEM**

**by Dr John WorldPeace JD**

**186 IS THIS THE CHRIST?**

Now some of the people of Jerusalem  
were saying,

“Is not this the man  
whom they are trying to kill?

And here he is, speaking openly,  
but they say nothing to him!

Can it be that the authorities  
really know that this is the Messiah?

Yet we know where this man is from  
but when the Messiah comes  
no one will know where he is from

Then Jesus cried out  
as he was teaching in the temple

“You know me,  
and you know where I am from.  
I have not come on my own.  
But the one who sent me  
is true  
and you do not know  
Him

I know him  
because I am from him  
and He sent me.

Then they tried to arrest him  
but no one laid hands on him  
because this house  
had not come.  
Yet many in the crowd  
believed in him and were saying

When the Messiah comes  
will he do more signs  
than this man has done?

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 187 OFFICERS ARE SENT TO ARREST HIM

The Pharisees heard the crowd  
muttering such things about him  
and the chief priests and  
Pharisees sent temple  
police to arrest him

Jesus then said,

“I will be with you a little while longer

and then I am going to Him  
who sent me.

You will search for me  
but you will not find me  
and where I am  
you cannot come

The Jews said to each other  
Where does this man intend to go  
that we will not find him?  
Does he intend to go to the  
Dispersion among the Greeks  
and teach the Greeks

What does he mean by saying  
You will search for me  
and you will not find me  
and  
Where I am,  
you cannot come?

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 188 RIVER OF LIVING WATER

On the last day of the festival  
the great day  
while Jesus was standing there  
he cried out

Let anyone who is thirsty  
come to me  
and let the one who believe  
in me  
drink

As the scripture has said,

“Out of the believer’s heart  
shall flow rivers of living water

Now he said this about the Spirit  
which believers in him  
were to receive  
for as yet there was no Spirit  
because Jesus was not glorified

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 189 JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Again Jesus spoke to them saying

I am the light of the world  
Whoever follows me will  
never walk in darkness  
but will have the light  
of life.

Then the Pharisees said to him

You are testifying on your own behalf

your testimony is not valid

Jesus answered

Even if I testify on my own behalf  
my testimony is valid because I know  
where I have come from  
and where I am going  
but you do not know where  
I come from or  
where I am going.

You judge by human standards

I judge no one

Yet even if I do judge,  
but I and God who sent me

In your law, it is written  
that the testimony of  
two witnesses is valid

I testify on my own behalf  
and God who sent me testifies  
on my behalf

Then they said to him

Where is your God?

Jesus answered,

You know neither me  
no God.  
If you knew me  
you would know God also

He spoke these words while he was  
teaching in the treasury of the temple  
but no one arrested him  
because his hour had  
not yet come

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 190 JESUS FORTTELLS HIS DEATH

Again he said to them

I am going away  
and you will search for me  
but will die in your sin  
Where I am going,  
you cannot come

Then the Jews said  
Is he going to kill himself  
Is that what he means by saying  
Where I am going,  
you cannot come

He said to them  
You are from below  
I am from above  
you are of this world  
I am not of this world  
I told you that you  
would die in your sins  
for you will die in your sins  
unless you believe that I am he.

They said to him  
Who are you?

Jesus said to them  
Why do I speak to you at all  
I have much to say about you  
and much to condemn  
but the one who sent me is true  
and I declare to the world  
what I have heard from him

They did not understand  
that he was speaking to them

about God

So Jesus said

When you have lifted up the Son of Man  
then you will realize that I am he and that  
I do nothing on my own  
but I speak these things as God  
instructed me  
And the one who sent me  
is with me  
he has not left me alone  
for I always do what is  
pleasing to Him

As he was saying these things  
many came to believe in him

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## **191 TRUE DISCIPLES**

Then Jesus said to the Jews  
who had believed in him

If you continue with my word,  
your are truly my disciples  
and you will know the truth  
and the truth with make you free.

They answered him  
We are descendants of Abraham  
and have never been slaves to anyone

What do you mean by saying  
You will be made free?

Jesus answered them

Very truly I tell you  
everyone who commits sin  
is a slave to sin

The slave does not have  
a permanent place in  
the household  
the son has a place  
there forever

So if the Son makes you free  
you will be free indeed

I know that you are descendants  
of Abraham  
yet you look for an opportunity  
to kill me because there is no place  
in you for my word

I declare what I have seen  
in God's presence;  
as for you  
you should do what you  
have heard from God

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 192 JESUS AND ABRAHAM

They answered him  
Abraham is our God

Jesus said to them  
If you were Abrahams children  
you would be doing what Abraham  
did  
but now you are trying to kill me  
a man who has told you  
the truth that I heard from God  
This is not what Abraham did

You are indeed doing what you God does.

The said to him

We are no illegitimate children  
we have one God  
God Himself

Jesus said to them

If God were your God  
you would love me  
for I came from God  
and now I am here  
I did not come on my own  
but He sent me.  
Why do you not understand  
what I say?

It is because you cannot accept my word  
You are from the devil and  
you chose to do Satan's desires.

He was a murderer from the beginning  
and does not stand in the truth  
because there is no truth in him  
When he lies,  
he speaks according  
to his own nature  
for he is a liar  
and the father of lies

But because I tell the truth  
you do not believe me  
Which of you convicts me of sin  
If I tell the truth  
why do you not believe me  
Whoever is from God  
hears the words of God

The reason you do not hear  
them is that you are not from God

The Jews answered him

Are we not right in saying  
that you are a Samaritan and

have a demon?

Jesus answered

“I do not have a demon  
but I honor God  
and you dishonor me

Yet I do not seek my own glory  
there is one who seeks it  
and he is the judge

Very truly I tell you  
whoever keeps my word  
will never see death

The Jews said to him

Now we know that you have a demon.  
Abraham died and so did the prophets  
yet you say  
Whoever keeps my word will  
never taste death  
Are you greater than Abraham  
who died?  
The Prophets also died.  
Who do you claim to be?

Jesus answered

If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing  
It is God who  
glorifies me  
he of whom you say  
He is our God  
though you do not  
know him

But I know Him  
if I were to say that  
I do not know Him  
I would be a liar like you

But I know him  
and I keep his word

Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced  
that he would see my day  
he saw it and was glad

Then the Jews said to him

You are not yet fifty years old  
and you have seen Abraham?

Jesus said to them  
Very truly, I tell you  
before Abraham was

I am  
So they picked up stones to  
throw at him  
but Jesus hid himself and  
went out of the Temple

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

### 193 JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Very truly, I tell you,  
anyone who does not enter the  
sheepfold by the gate  
but climbs in  
by another way  
is a thief and bandit

The one who enters  
by the gate is the  
shepherd of the sheep

The gatekeeper opens the gate  
for him  
and the sheep hear his voice  
He call his own sheep by name

and leads them out.

When he has brought out all his own  
he goes ahead of them  
and the sheep follow him  
because they know his voice  
They will not follow a stranger  
but they will run from him  
because they do not know  
the voice of the  
strangers

Jesus used this figure of speech with them  
but they did not understand  
what he was saying to them

So again Jesus said to them

Very truly I tell you  
I am the gate for the sheep  
All who came before me  
are thieves and bandits  
and the sheep did not listen  
to them

I am the gate  
Whoever enters by me  
will be saved and  
will come in  
and go out and find pasture

The thief comes only to steal  
and kill and destroy  
I came that they may  
have life  
and have it abundantly

I am the good shepherd  
The good shepherd  
lays down his life  
for the sheep

The hired hand  
who is not the shepherd  
and does not own the sheep  
sees the wolf coming and leaves  
the sheep and runs away  
and the wolf snatches  
them and scatters them

The hired hand runs away because  
a hired hand does not care  
for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd  
I know my own and  
my own know me  
just as God  
knows me  
and I know God  
And I lay down my life  
for the sheep

I have other sheep  
that do not belong to this fold  
I must bring them also,  
and they will listen to  
my voice.

So there will be one flock  
one shepherd  
For this reason,  
God loves me because  
I lay down my life  
in order to take it up again

No one takes it from me  
but I lay it down of  
my own accord

I have the power to  
lay it down  
and I have the power

to take it up again  
I have received this command from God

Again the Jews were divided  
because of these words.  
Many of them were saying  
He has a demon  
and is out of his mind.

Why listen to him?  
Others were saying  
These are  
not the words  
of one who has a demon  
Can a demon open the eyes  
of the blind

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 194 JESUS IS REJECTED BY THE JEWS

At that time  
the festival of the Dedication  
took place in Jerusalem  
It was winter  
and Jesus was walking  
in the temple  
in the portico of Solomon

So the Jews gathered around him  
and said to him

How long will you keep us in suspense?  
If you are the Messiah  
tell us plainly

Jesus answered  
I have told you  
and you do not believe

The works that I do  
in God's name testify to me

but you do not believe  
because you do not belong  
to my sheep

My sheep hear my voice  
I know them  
and they follow me

I give them eternal life  
and they will never perish  
No one will snatch them  
out of my hands

What God has given me is  
greater than all else  
and no one can snatch it  
out of God's hand  
God and I are one  
The Jews took up stones again  
to stone him

Jesus replied  
I have shown you many good works  
from God  
For which of these are you  
going to stone me?

The Jews answered  
It is not for a good work  
that we are going to stone you  
but for blasphemy  
because you ,  
though only a human being  
are making yourself God

Jesus answered

Is it not written in your law  
I said you are gods  
If those to whom the  
word of God came  
were called gods

and the scripture  
cannot be annuleled  
can you say that  
the one whom God  
has sanctified and  
sent into the world  
is blaspheming because I said  
I am God's son.

If I am not doing  
the works of God  
then do not believe me  
But if I do them  
even though you  
do not believe me  
then believe the works  
so that you may know and  
understand that God is in me  
and I am in God.

Then they tried to arrest him again  
but he escaped from their hands

He went away  
again across the Jordan  
to the place where John  
had been baptizing earlier  
and he remained there

Many came to him  
and they were saying  
John performed no sign  
but everything that John  
said about this man is true

And many believed in him there.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 195 JESUS THE WAY TO GOD

Do not let your hearts be troubled

believe in God  
believe also in me

In God's house there are many  
mansions. If it were not so  
would I have told you  
that I go to prepare  
a place for yo?

And if I go and prepare  
a place for you

I will come again  
and will take you to myself  
so that where I am  
there you may be also

And you know the way  
to the place where I am going

Thomas said to him

Lord we do not know  
where you are going  
How can we know the way

Jesus said to him

I am the way  
the truth  
and the life

No one comes to God  
except through me

If you know me  
you will know God also

From now on  
you do know Him  
and have seen him

Philip said to him,

Lord show us God  
and we will be satisfied

Jesus said to him

Have I been with you all this time  
Phillip, and you still  
do not know me?

Whoever has seen me  
has seen God  
How can you say  
“Show us God?”

Do you not believe  
that I am in God  
and God is in me?

The words that I say to you  
I do not speak on my own  
but God who dwells in me  
does his works

Believe me that I am in God  
and God is in me  
but if you do not  
then believe me  
because of the works  
themselves

Very truly I tell you  
the one who believes in me  
will also do the works  
that I do and in fact  
will do greater works  
than these  
because I am  
going to God

I will do whatever you ask

in my name  
so that God may be  
glorified in the Son.

If in my name you  
ask me for anything  
I will do it.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 196 THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

If you love me  
you will keep my commandments  
And I will ask God  
and he will give you another  
Advocate to be with you forever

This is the Spirit of truth  
whom the world cannot receive  
because it neither  
sees him or knows him

You know him because  
he abides with you  
and he will be in you

In a little while  
the world will not longer  
see me but you will see me  
because I live  
you also will live

On that day you will know  
that I am God  
and you in me  
and I in you

They who have my commandments  
and keep them  
are those who love me  
and those who love me

will be loved by God  
and I will love them  
and reveal myself to them

Judas (not the betrayer) said to him  
Lord how is it that  
you will reveal yourself to us  
and not to the world

Jesus answered him

Those who love me  
will keep my word  
and God will love them  
and we will come to them  
and make our home with them

Whoever does not love me  
does not keep my words  
and the word that you hear  
is not mine  
but is from God  
who sent me

I have said these things to you  
while I am still with you

But the Advocate  
the Holy Spirit  
whom God will send  
in my name  
will teach you everything  
and remind you of all  
that I have said to you.

Peace I leave with you  
my peace I give to you  
I do not give to you  
as the world gives

Do not let your hearts be troubled  
and do not let

them be afraid  
You heard me say to you  
I am going away  
and I am coming to you

If you loved me  
you would rejoice that  
I am going to God  
because God is greater  
than I

And now I have told you this  
before it occurs  
so that when it does occur  
you may believe

I will no longer  
talk much with you  
for the ruler of this world  
is coming

He has not power over me  
but I do as God has commanded me  
so that the world may know  
that I loved God

Rise, let us be on our way

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 197 JESUS THE TRUE VINE

I am the true vine,  
and my Father is the vine-grower

He removes every branch in me that  
bears no fruit  
Every branch that bears fruit he prunes  
to make it bear more fruit

You have already been cleansed

by the words that I have spoken to you.  
Abide in me as I abide in you.

Just as the branch cannot  
bear fruit by itself  
unless it abides in the vine  
neither can you  
unless you abide in me

I am the vine,  
you are the branches.  
Those who abide in me and I in them  
bear much fruit  
because apart from me  
you can do nothing

Whoever does not abide in me  
is thrown away like a branch and withers  
such branches are gathered  
thrown into the fire  
and burned

If you abide in me  
and my words abide in you  
ask for whatever you wish  
and it will be done for you

My Father is glorified by this  
that you bear much fruit and  
become my disciples

As the Father has loved me  
so I have loved you  
abide in my love.

If you keep my commandments

you will abide in my love  
just as I have kept  
my Father's commandments  
and abide in his love

I have said these things to you  
so that my joy may be in you  
and that your joy may be complete

“This is my commandment  
that you love one another  
as I have loved you

No one has greater love than this  
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends

if you do what I command you.

I do not call you servants any longer  
because the servant

does not know what the master is doing

but I have called you friends

because I have made known to you  
everything that I have heard  
from my Father

You did not choose me  
but I chose you.

And I appointed you to go and  
bear fruit, fruit that will last  
so that the Father will give you  
whatever you ask him in my name

I am giving you these commands  
so that you may love one another

## 198 THE WORLD'S HATRED

If the world hates you  
be aware that it hated me  
before it hated you

If you belonged to the world  
the world would love you  
as its own.

Because you do not belong  
to the world  
but I have chosen you  
out of the world —  
therefore the world hates you

Remember the word  
that I said to you,  
“Servants are not  
greater than their master”  
If they persecuted me  
they will persecute you  
if they kept my word  
they will keep yours also

But they will do all these things  
to you on account of my name  
because they do not know God  
who sent me

If I had not come and  
spoken to them  
they would not have sin

but now they have no excuse  
for their sin

Whoever hates me  
hates my Father also  
If I had not done among them  
the works that no one else has done  
they would not have sin

But now they have seen and  
hated both me and my Father

It was to fulfil the word  
that is written in their law  
“They hated me without a cause.”

When the Advocate comes  
whom I will send to you  
from God  
the Spirit of truth  
who comes from the Father  
he will testify on my behalf

You also are to testify because  
you have been with me  
from the beginning.

I have said these things to you  
to keep you from stumbling  
They will put you  
out of the synagogues

Indeed an hour is coming when  
those who kill you  
will think that by doing so  
they are offering worship to God

And they will do this because

they have not known God  
or me  
I have said these things to you  
so that when their hour comes  
you may remember that  
I told you about them

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 199 THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT

I did not say things to you  
from the beginning  
because I was with you

But now I am going to  
God who sent me  
yet none of you asks me  
“Where are you going?”

Because I have said these things to you  
sorrow has filled your hearts  
Nevertheless I tell you the truth  
It is to your advantage  
that I go away

for if I do not go away  
the Advocate will not come to you  
but if I go  
I will send him to you

When he comes  
he will prove the world wrong about  
sin and righteousness and judgement:  
about sin  
because they do not believe in me

about righteousness  
because I am going to the Father  
and you will see me no longer

about judgement  
because the ruler of this world  
has been condemned

I still have many things to say to you  
but you cannot bear them now.  
When the Spirit of truth comes  
he will guide you into all truth  
for he will not speak on his own

He will declare to you  
the things that are to come  
He will glorify me  
because he will take what is mine  
and declare it to you

All that the Father has is mine.  
For this reason  
I said that he will take what is mine  
and declare it to you

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## **200 SORROW WILL TURN INTO JOY**

A little while,  
and you will no longer see me,  
and again a little while,  
and you will see me.' 17

Then some of his disciples said to one another,  
'What does he mean by saying to us,

“A little while, and you will no longer see me,  
and again a little while,  
and you will see me”

“Because I am going to the Father”?

They said, ‘What does he mean by this  
“a little while”?’

We do not know what he is talking about.’

Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him  
so he said to them

“Are you discussing among yourselves  
what I meant when I said  
‘A little while  
and you will no longer see me  
and again a little while  
and you will see me””

Very truly, I tell you  
you will weep and mourn  
but the world will rejoice

you will have pain  
but your pain will turn into joy

When a woman is in labor,  
she has pain because her hour has come  
But when her child is born  
she no longer remembers the anguish  
because of the joy of having brought  
a human being into the world.

So you have pain now  
but I will see you again  
and your hearts will rejoice  
and no one will take your joy from you

On that day you will ask nothing of me.  
Very truly, I tell you  
if you ask anything of the Father  
in my name  
he will give it to you.

Until now you have not asked  
for anything in my name.

Ask and you will receive  
so that your joy may be complete.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## **201 PEACE FOR THE DISCIPLES**

I have said these things to you  
in figures of speech

The hour is coming when  
I will no longer speak to you in figures  
but will tell you plainly of God

On that day  
you will ask in my name

I do not say to you  
that I will ask the Father on your behalf  
for the Father himself loves you  
because you have loved me  
and have believed that I came from Him

I came from the Father  
and have come into the world again  
I am leaving the world and  
I am going to the Father

His disciples said,

‘Yes, now you are speaking plainly  
not in any figure of speech

Now we know that you know all things  
and do not need to have  
anyone question you  
by this we believe  
that you came from God

Jesus answered them  
Do you now believe?

The hour is coming,  
indeed it has come  
when you will be scattered,  
each one to his home  
and you will leave me all alone.

Yet I am not alone because  
the Father is with me.  
I have said this to you,  
so that in me you may have peace.

In the world you face persecution.  
but have courage

“I have conquered the world!”

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 202 JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES

17After Jesus had spoken these words,  
he looked up to heaven and said,  
‘ Father, the hour has come;  
glorify your Son so that  
the Son may glorify you,  
2since you have given him

authority over all people,  
to give eternal life to  
all whom you have given him. 3  
And this is eternal life,  
that they may know you,  
the only true God,  
and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.  
4I glorified you on earth  
by finishing the work that  
you gave me to do. 5

So now, Father, glorify me  
in your own presence  
with the glory that I had  
in your presence before the world existed.

6 I have made your name known  
to those whom you gave me  
from the world.  
They were yours,  
and you gave them to me,  
and they have kept your word.

7Now they know that  
everything you have given me  
is from you;  
8for the words that you gave to me  
I have given to them,  
and they have received them and  
know in truth that  
I came from you;  
and they have believed  
that you sent me. 9

I am asking on their behalf;  
I am not asking on behalf

of the world,  
but on behalf of those  
whom you gave me,  
because they are yours.

10All mine are yours,  
and yours are mine;  
and I have been glorified in them.  
11And now I am no longer in the world,  
but they are in the world,  
and I am coming to you.

Holy Father, protect them  
in your name that you have given me,  
so that they may be one,  
as we are one.

12While I was with them,  
I protected them in your name  
that you have given me.  
I guarded them,  
and not one of them was lost  
except the one destined to be lost,  
so that the scripture might be fulfilled.

13But now I am coming to you,  
and I speak these things  
in the world  
so that they may  
have my joy made complete  
in themselves.

14I have given them your word,  
and the world has hated them  
because they do not belong  
to the world,  
just as I do not belong to the world.

15 I am not asking you  
to take them out of the world  
 , but I ask you to protect them  
 from the evil one.  
16 They do not belong to the world,  
just as I do not belong to the world  
17 Sanctify them in the truth;  
your word is truth.  
18 As you have sent me into the world,  
so I have sent them into the world.  
19 And for their sakes  
I sanctify myself,  
so that they also may be  
sanctified in truth.  
20 I ask not only  
on behalf of these,  
but also on behalf of those  
who will believe in me  
through their word,  
21 that they may all be one.

As you, Father, are in me  
and I am in you,  
may they also be in us,  
so that the world may believe  
that you have sent me.  
22 The glory that you have given me  
I have given them,  
so that they may be one,  
as we are one,  
23 I in them and you in me,  
that they may become completely one,  
so that the world may know  
that you have sent me  
and have loved them  
even as you have loved me.

24 Father, I desire that those also,  
whom you have given me,  
may be with me where I am,  
to see my glory,  
which you have given me  
because you loved me  
before the foundation of the world.

25 'Righteous Father,  
the world does not know you,  
but I know you;  
and these know that you have sent me.  
26 I made your name known to them,  
and I will make it known,  
so that the love with which  
you have loved me  
may be in them,  
and I in them.'

## PARABLES

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

### 203 THE PURPOSE OF THE PARABLES

10 Then the disciples came  
and asked him,  
'Why do you speak to them  
in parables?'

11 He answered,  
'To you it has been given  
to know the secrets of  
the kingdom of heaven,  
but to them it has not been given.

12 For to those who have,

more will be given,  
and they will have an abundance;  
but from those who have nothing,  
even what they have will be taken away.

13The reason I speak to them  
in parables is that  
“seeing they do not perceive,  
and hearing they do not listen,  
nor do they understand.”

14With them indeed  
is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah  
that says:  
“You will indeed listen,  
but never understand,  
and you will indeed look,  
but never perceive.

15For this people’s heart has grown dull,  
and their ears are hard of hearing,  
and they have shut their eyes;  
so that they might not look with their eyes,  
and listen with their ears,  
and understand with their heart and turn—  
and I would heal them.”

16But blessed are your eyes,  
for they see,  
and your ears,  
for they hear.

17Truly I tell you,  
many prophets and righteous people  
longed to see what you see,  
but did not see it,  
and to hear what you hear,  
but did not hear it.



~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 204 THE USE OF PARABLES

Jesus told the crowds  
all these things in parables  
without a parable  
he told them nothing

This was to fulfil  
what had been spoken through the prophet:

‘I will open my mouth to speak in parables  
I will proclaim what has been hidden  
from the foundation of the world

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 205 THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

13That same day

Jesus went out of the house  
and sat beside the lake.

2Such great crowds  
gathered around him  
that he got into a boat  
and sat there,  
while the whole crowd  
stood on the beach.

3And he told them many things  
in parables, saying:

‘Listen!

A sower went out to sow.

4And as he sowed,  
some seeds fell on the path,  
and the birds came and ate them up.

5Other seeds fell on rocky ground,  
where they did not have much soil,  
and they sprang up quickly,  
since they had no depth of soil.

6But when the sun rose,  
they were scorched;  
and since they had no root,  
they withered away.

7 Other seeds fell among thorns,  
and the thorns grew up  
and choked them.

8Other seeds fell on good soil  
and brought forth grain,  
some a hundredfold,  
some sixty, some thirty.

9Let anyone with ears listen!

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 206 THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER EXPLAINED

18 'Hear then the parable of the sower.

19When anyone hears  
the word of the kingdom  
and does not understand it,  
the evil one comes  
and snatches away  
what is sown in the heart;  
this is what was sown on the path

20As for what was sown on rocky ground,  
this is the one who hears the word  
and immediately receives it with joy;  
21yet such a person has no root,  
but endures only for a while,  
and when trouble or persecution arises

on account of the word,  
that person immediately falls away.

22As for what was sown among thorns,  
this is the one who hears the word,  
but the cares of the world  
and the lure of wealth  
choke the word,  
and it yields nothing.

23But as for what was sown  
on good soil,  
this is the one who hears  
the word and understands it,  
who indeed bears fruit  
and yields,  
in one case a hundredfold,  
in another sixty,  
and in another thirty.’

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 207 THE PARABLE OF WEEDS AMONG THE WHEAT

24 He put before them another parable:

‘The kingdom of heaven  
may be compared to someone  
who sowed good seed in his field;  
25but while everybody was asleep,  
an enemy came and sowed weeds  
among the wheat,  
and then went away.

26So when the plants came up  
and bore grain,  
then the weeds appeared as well.

27 And the slaves of the householder  
came and said to him,  
“Master, did you not sow good seed  
in your field?  
Where, then, did these weeds come from?”

28 He answered,  
“An enemy has done this.”  
The slaves said to him,  
“Then do you want us  
to go and gather them?”

29 But he replied,  
“No; for in gathering the weeds  
you would uproot the wheat  
along with them.

30 Let both of them grow together  
until the harvest;  
and at harvest time  
I will tell the reapers,  
Collect the weeds first  
and bind them in bundles  
to be burned,  
but gather the wheat  
into my barn.”

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 208 JESUS EXPLAINS THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS

36 Then he left the crowds  
and went into the house.  
And his disciples approached him  
, saying,  
‘Explain to us  
the parable of the weeds  
of the field.’

37He answered,  
    'The one who sows the good seed  
        is the Son of Man;  
        38the field is the world,  
            and the good seed  
            are the children of the kingdom;  
the weeds are  
    the children of the evil one,  
        39and the enemy who sowed them  
        is the devil;  
    the harvest is the end of the age,  
and the reapers are angels.

40Just as the weeds  
    are collected and burned up  
        with fire,  
        so will it be  
            at the end of the age.

41The Son of Man  
    will send his angels,  
and they will  
collect out of his kingdom  
    all causes of sin  
    and all evildoers,  
        42and they will throw them  
        into the furnace of fire,  
        where there will be  
            weeping and gnashing of teeth.

43Then the righteous will shine  
    like the sun in the  
        kingdom of their Father.

Let anyone with ears listen!

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 209 THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED

He also said,  
    'With what can we compare  
        the kingdom of God,  
            or what parable  
                will we use for it?'

It is like a mustard seed,  
    which, when sown upon the ground,  
        is the smallest of all the seeds  
            on earth;  
                yet when it is sown  
                    it grows up and  
                        becomes the greatest of all shrubs,  
                    and puts forth large branches,  
                so that the birds  
                    of the air  
                        can make nests in its shade.'

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 210 THE USE OF PARABLES

33 With many such parables  
    he spoke the word to them,  
        as they were able to hear it;  
        34he did not speak to them  
        except in parables,  
            but he explained everything  
                in private  
                    to his disciples.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 211 THE PARABLE OF THE YEAST

20 And again he said,

‘To what should I compare  
the kingdom of God?

21It is like yeast

that a woman took

and mixed in with

three measures of flour

until all of it was leavened.’

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 212 THREE PARABLES

44 ‘The kingdom of heaven

is like treasure hidden in a field,

which someone found and hid;

then in his joy

he goes and sells all that he has

and buys that field.

45 ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven

is like a merchant

in search of fine pearls;

46on finding one pearl of great value,

he went and sold all that he had

and bought it.

47 ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven

is like a net that

was thrown into the sea  
and caught fish of every kind;  
48when it was full,  
they drew it ashore,  
sat down,  
and put the good into baskets  
but threw out the bad.

49So it will be at the end of the age.  
The angels will come out  
and separate the evil from  
the righteous  
50and throw them into  
the furnace of fire,  
where there will be weeping  
and gnashing of teeth.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 213 THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

Now all the tax-collectors  
and sinners were coming near  
to listen to him.  
And the Pharisees  
and the scribes were grumbling  
and saying, ‘

This fellow welcomes sinners  
and eats with them.’  
3 So he told them this parable:  
4‘Which one of you,  
having a hundred sheep  
and losing one of them,  
does not leave the ninety-nine  
in the wilderness  
and go after the one that is lost

until he finds it?

When he has found it,  
he lays it on his shoulders  
and rejoices.  
6And when he comes home,  
he calls together his friends  
and neighbors,  
saying to them,

“Rejoice with me,  
for I have found my sheep  
that was lost.”

Just so,  
I tell you,  
there will be more joy in heaven  
over one sinner who repents  
than over ninety-nine  
righteous people  
who need no repentance.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 214 FORGIVENESS

Then Peter came  
and said to him,  
‘Lord,  
if another member of the church  
sins against me,  
how often should I forgive?  
As many as seven times?’

22Jesus said to him,  
‘Not seven times,  
but, I tell you,  
seventy-seven times.

## 215 THE PARABLE OF THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

‘For this reason  
the kingdom of heaven  
may be compared  
to a king who wished  
to settle accounts with his slaves.

24When he began the reckoning,  
one who owed him  
ten thousand talents  
was brought to him;

25and, as he could not pay,  
his lord ordered him to be sold,  
together with his wife  
and children  
and all his possessions,  
and payment to be made.

26So the slave fell on his knees  
before him, saying,  
“Have patience with me,  
and I will pay you everything.”

27And out of pity for him,  
the lord of that slave  
released him  
and forgave him the debt.  
28But that same slave,  
as he went out,  
came upon one of his fellow-slaves  
who owed him a hundred denarii;

and seizing him by the throat,  
he said, "Pay what you owe."

Then his fellow-slave  
fell down and pleaded with him,  
"Have patience with me,  
and I will pay you."

But he refused;  
then he went and  
threw him into prison  
until he should pay the debt.  
31 When his fellow-slaves saw  
what had happened,  
they were greatly distressed,  
and they went and reported  
to their lord  
all that had taken place.

Then his lord summoned him  
and said to him,  
"You wicked slave!  
I forgave you all that debt  
because you pleaded with me.  
33 Should you not  
have had mercy  
on your fellow-slave,  
as I had mercy on you?"

And in anger  
his lord handed him over  
to be tortured until  
he should pay his entire debt.  
So my heavenly Father  
will also do to every one of you,  
if you do not

forgive your brother or sister  
from your heart.'

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 216 THE PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS

Jesus asked, 'What do you think?

A man had two sons;  
he went to the first and said,  
"Son, go and work in the vineyard today."  
He answered,  
"I will not";  
but later he changed his mind  
and went.

The father went to the second son  
and said the same;  
and he answered  
"I go, sir"; but he did not go.

Which of the two  
did the will of his father?

They said, 'The first.'

Jesus said to them  
"Truly I tell you,  
the tax-collectors  
and the prostitutes  
are going into  
the kingdom of God  
ahead of you.

For John came to you  
in the way of righteousness  
and you did not believe him  
but the tax-collectors  
and the prostitutes believed him;  
and even after you saw it,  
you did not change your minds  
and believe him.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 217 THE PARABLE OF THE WICKED TENANTS

Listen to another parable.

There was a landowner who planted a vineyard,  
put a fence around it,  
dug a wine press in it,  
and built a watch-tower.

Then he leased it to tenants  
and went to another country.

When the harvest time had come,  
he sent his slaves to the tenants  
to collect his produce.

But the tenants seized his slaves  
and beat one, killed another,  
and stoned another.

Again he sent other slaves,  
more than the first;  
and they treated them in the same way.

Finally he sent his son to them, saying,

“They will respect my son.”

But when the tenants saw the son,  
they said to themselves,

“This is the heir; come,  
let us kill him and get his inheritance.”

So they seized him,  
threw him out of the vineyard,  
and killed him.

Now when the owner of the vineyard comes,  
what will he do to those tenants?’

They said to him,  
‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death  
and lease the vineyard to other tenants  
who will give him the produce  
at the harvest time.’

Jesus said to them, ‘  
Have you never read in the scriptures:  
“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes”?’

Therefore I tell you,  
the kingdom of God  
will be taken away from you  
and given to a people  
that produces the fruits of the kingdom.

The one who falls on this stone  
will be broken to pieces;  
and it will crush anyone  
on whom it falls.’

When the chief priests  
and the Pharisees heard his parables,  
they realized that he was  
speaking about them.  
They wanted to arrest him,  
but they feared the crowds,  
because they regarded him as a prophet.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 218 THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING BANQUET

Once more Jesus spoke to them  
in parables, saying:

“The kingdom of heaven  
may be compared to a king  
who gave a wedding banquet  
for his son.  
He sent his slaves to call those  
who had been invited  
to the wedding banquet,  
but they would not come.  
Again he sent other slaves, saying,  
“Tell those who have been invited:  
Look, I have prepared my dinner,  
my oxen and my fat calves  
have been slaughtered,  
and everything is ready;  
come to the wedding banquet.”  
But they made light of it  
and went away,  
one to his farm,  
another to his business,  
while the rest seized his slaves,  
maltreated them, and killed them.

The king was enraged.

He sent his troops,  
destroyed those murderers,  
and burned their city.

Then he said to his slaves,

“The wedding is ready,  
but those invited were not worthy.

Go therefore into the main streets,  
and invite everyone you find  
to the wedding banquet.”

Those slaves  
went out into the streets  
and gathered all whom they found,  
both good and bad;  
so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in

to see the guests,  
he noticed a man there  
who was not wearing  
a wedding robe,  
and he said to him,

“Friend, how did you get in here  
without a wedding robe?”

And he was speechless.

Then the king said to the attendants,  
“Bind him hand and foot,  
and throw him into the outer darkness,  
where there will be  
weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

For many are called,  
but few are chosen

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 219 THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

Jesus said,

‘For it is as if a man,  
going on a journey,  
summoned his slaves  
and entrusted his property to them;  
to one he gave five talents,  
to another two, to another one,  
to each according to his ability.

Then he went away.

The one who had received the five talents  
went off at once  
and traded with them,  
and made five more talents.  
In the same way,  
the one who had the two talents  
made two more talents.  
But the one  
who had received the one talent  
went off and dug a hole in the ground  
and hid his master’s money.

After a long time  
the master of those slaves  
came and settled accounts with them.

Then the one  
who had received the five talents  
came forward, bringing five more talents,  
saying, "Master, you handed  
over to me five talents;  
see, I have made five more talents."  
His master said to him,  
"Well done, good and  
trustworthy slave;  
you have been trustworthy  
in a few things,  
I will put you in charge  
of many things;  
enter into the joy of your master."

And the one with the two talents  
also came forward, saying,  
"Master, you handed  
over to me two talents;  
see, I have made two more talents."  
His master said to him,  
"Well done, good and trustworthy slave;  
you have been trustworthy in a few things,  
I will put you in charge of many things;  
enter into the joy of your master."

Then the one  
who had received the one talent  
also came forward,  
saying, "Master, I knew that  
you were a harsh man,  
reaping where you did not sow,  
and gathering where you did not  
scatter seed;  
so I was afraid,

and I went and hid your talent  
in the ground.  
Here you have what is yours.”

But his master replied,  
“You wicked and lazy slave!  
You knew, did you,  
that I reap where I did not sow,  
and gather where I did not scatter?  
Then you ought to have  
invested my money  
with the bankers,  
and on my return  
I would have received  
what was my own with interest.

So take the talent from him,  
and give it to the one  
with the ten talents.  
For to all those who have,  
more will be given,  
and they will have an abundance;  
but from those who have nothing,  
even what they have  
will be taken away.

As for this worthless slave  
throw him into the outer darkness,  
where there will be weeping  
and gnashing of teeth.”

Then he told them a parable:

“The land of a rich man produced abundantly.  
And he thought to himself,  
“What should I do,  
for I have no place

to store my crops?"  
Then he said, "I will do this:  
I will pull down my barns  
and build larger ones,  
and there I will store all my grain  
and my goods.

And I will say to my soul,  
Soul, you have ample goods  
laid up for many years;  
relax, eat, drink, be merry."

But God said to him, "  
You fool!  
This very night  
your life is being demanded of you.  
And the things you have prepared,  
whose will they be?"

So it is with those who store up  
treasures for themselves  
but are not rich towards God.'

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 220 THE PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN

'Or what woman  
having ten silver coins,  
if she loses one of them,  
does not light a lamp,  
sweep the house,  
and search carefully  
until she finds it?  
When she has found it,  
she calls together her friends  
and neighbors, saying,

“Rejoice with me,  
for I have found the coin  
that I had lost.”

Just so  
, I tell you,  
there is joy in the presence  
of the angels of God  
over one sinner who repents.’

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## **221 THE PARABLE OF THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX-COLLECTOR**

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector

He also told this parable  
to some who trusted in themselves  
that they were righteous  
and regarded others with contempt

:

“Two men went up to the temple  
to pray,  
one a Pharisee and  
the other a tax-collector  
The Pharisee,  
standing by himself,  
was praying thus,  
“God, I thank you  
that I am not like other people:  
thieves, rogues, adulterers,  
or even like this tax-collector.  
I fast twice a week;  
I give a tenth of all my income.”

But the tax-collector,  
standing far off,  
would not even look up to heaven,  
but was beating his breast and saying,  
“God, be merciful to me, a sinner!”

I tell you,  
this man went down to his home  
justified rather than the other;  
for all who exalt themselves  
will be humbled,  
but all who humble themselves  
will be exalted.’

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## **222 THE PARABLE OF THE WIDOW AND THE UNJUST JUDGE**

Then Jesus told them a parable  
about their need to pray always  
and not to lose heart.

Jesus said,  
‘In a certain city  
there was a judge  
who neither feared God  
nor had respect for people.  
In that city  
there was a widow  
who kept coming to him  
and saying,  
“Grant me justice against my opponent.”

For a while he refused;  
but later he said to himself,  
“Though I have no fear of God  
and no respect for anyone,  
yet because this widow  
keeps bothering me,  
I will grant her justice,

so that she may not wear me out  
by continually coming.” ’

And the Lord said,  
‘Listen to what the unjust judge says.

And will not God grant justice  
to his chosen ones  
who cry to him day and night?

Will he delay long in helping them?  
I tell you,  
he will quickly grant justice to them.  
And yet,  
when the Son of Man comes,  
will he find faith on earth?’

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 223 THE PARABLE OF THE DISHONEST MANAGER

Then Jesus said to the disciples

‘There was a rich man  
who had a manager,  
and charges were brought to him  
that this man was squandering his property  
So he summoned him  
and said to him,  
“What is this that I hear about you?  
Give me an account  
of your management,  
because you cannot  
be my manager any longer.”

Then the manager said to himself,

“What will I do,  
now that my master is  
taking the position away  
from me?  
I am not strong enough to dig,  
and I am ashamed to beg.  
I have decided what to do  
so that,  
when I am dismissed as manager,  
people may welcome me  
into their homes.”

So, summoning his master’s debtors  
one by one,  
he asked the first,  
“How much do you owe my master?”  
He answered,  
“A hundred jugs of olive oil.”  
He said to him,  
“Take your bill,  
sit down quickly,  
and make it fifty.”

Then he asked another,  
“And how much do you owe?”  
He replied,  
“A hundred containers of wheat.”  
He said to him,  
“Take your bill  
and make it eighty.”

His master  
commended the dishonest manager  
because he had acted shrewdly;  
  
for the children of this age  
are more shrewd  
in dealing with their own generation

than are the children of light.

And I tell you,  
make friends for yourselves  
by means of dishonest wealth  
so that when it is gone,  
they may welcome you  
into the eternal homes.

Whoever is faithful in a very little  
is faithful also in much;  
and whoever is dishonest  
in a very little  
is dishonest also in much

If then  
you have not been faithful  
with the dishonest wealth,  
who will entrust to you their true riches?  
And if you have not been faithful  
with what belongs to another,  
who will give you what is your own?

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 224 THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

There was a rich man  
who was dressed in  
purple and fine linen  
and who feasted sumptuously  
every day.

And at his gate  
lay a poor man named Lazarus,  
covered with sores,  
who longed to satisfy his hunger  
with what fell from the rich man's table;  
even the dogs  
would come and lick his sores.

The poor man died  
and was carried away by the angels  
to be with Abraham.  
The rich man also died  
and was buried.  
In Hades,  
where he was being tormented,  
he looked up and saw Abraham  
far away with Lazarus by his side

He called out,  
“Father Abraham, have mercy on me,  
and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger  
in water and cool my tongue;  
for I am in agony  
in these flames.”

But Abraham said,  
“Child, remember that  
during your lifetime  
you received your good things,  
and Lazarus  
in like manner evil things;  
but now he is comforted here,  
and you are in agony.  
Besides all this,  
between you and us  
a great chasm has been fixed,  
so that those who  
might want to pass  
from here to you  
cannot do so,  
and no one can cross  
from there to us.”

He said,  
“Then, father,  
I beg you to send him to my father’s house—  
for I have five brothers  
—that he may warn them,  
so that they will not

also come into this  
place of torment.”

Abraham replied,  
“They have Moses and the prophets  
they should listen to them.”

He said,  
“No, father Abraham;  
but if someone goes to them  
from the dead,  
they will repent.”

He said to him,  
“If they do not listen to  
Moses and the prophets,  
neither will they be convinced  
even if someone rises from the dead.”’

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 225 HUMILITY AND HOSPITALITY

When Jesus noticed  
how the guests chose  
the places of honor,  
he told them a parable.

‘When you are invited by someone  
to a wedding banquet,  
do not sit down at the place of honour,  
in case someone  
more distinguished than you  
has been invited by your host;  
and the host who invited both of you  
may come and say to you,  
“Give this person your place”,  
and then in disgrace  
you would start to take the lowest place  
But when you are invited,  
go and sit down at the lowest place,  
so that when your host comes,  
he may say to you,

“Friend, move up higher”;  
then you will be honored  
in the presence of all  
who sit at the table with you.  
For all who exalt themselves  
will be humbled,  
and those who humble themselves  
will be exalted.’

He said also  
to the one who had invited him,  
“When you give a luncheon or a dinner,  
do not invite your friends  
or your brothers or your relatives  
or rich neighbors,  
in case they may invite you in return,  
and you would be repaid.  
But when you give a banquet,  
invite the poor,  
the crippled, the lame  
and the blind.  
And you will be blessed,  
because they cannot repay you,  
for you will be repaid  
at the resurrection of the righteous.’

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 226 THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL AND HIS BROTHER

Then Jesus said,

There was a man who had two sons.  
The younger of them said to his father,  
“Father, give me  
the share of the property  
that will belong to me.

So the father divided his property between them.  
A few days later the younger son  
gathered all he had  
and travelled to a distant country,

and there he squandered his property  
in dissolute living.  
When he had spent everything,  
a severe famine took place  
throughout that country,  
and he began to be in need.  
So he went and hired himself out  
to one of the citizens of that country,  
who sent him to his fields  
to feed the pigs.  
He would gladly have filled himself  
with the pods that the pigs were eating;  
and no one gave him anything.  
But when he came to himself  
he said,  
“How many of my father’s hired hands  
have bread enough  
and to spare,  
but here I am dying of hunger!  
I will get up and go to my father,  
and I will say to him, ‘  
Father, I have sinned against heaven  
and before you;  
I am no longer worthy  
to be called your son;  
treat me like one of your hired hands.’  
So he set off  
and went to his father.  
But while he was still far off,  
his father saw him  
and was filled with compassion;  
he ran and put his arms around him  
and kissed him.  
Then the son said to him,  
“Father, I have sinned  
against heaven and before you;  
I am no longer worthy to be called your son.  
But the father said to his slaves,  
“Quickly, bring out a robe—  
the best one—  
and put it on him;  
put a ring on his finger

and sandals on his feet.  
And get the fatted calf  
and kill it,  
and let us eat and celebrate;  
for this son of mine was dead  
and is alive again;  
he was lost and is found!"  
And they began to celebrate.

Now his elder son was in the field;  
and when he came and  
approached the house,  
he heard music and dancing.  
He called one of the slaves  
and asked what was going on.  
He replied,  
"Your brother has come,  
and your father has killed the fatted calf,  
because he has got him back  
safe and sound."  
Then he became angry  
and refused to go in.  
His father came out  
and began to plead with him.  
But he answered his father,  
"Listen! For all these years  
I have been working like a slave for you  
and I have never disobeyed your command;  
yet you have never given me  
even a young goat  
so that I might celebrate with my friends.  
But when this son of yours came back,  
who has devoured your property  
with prostitutes,  
you killed the fatted calf for him!"  
Then the father said to him,  
"Son, you are always with me,  
and all that is mine is yours.

But we had to celebrate and rejoice,  
because this brother of yours was dead

and has come to life;  
he was lost and has been found.”

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 227 THE PARABLE OF THE BARREN FIG TREE

Then he told this parable:  
‘A man had a fig tree  
planted in his vineyard;  
and he came looking for fruit on it  
and found none.  
So he said to the gardener,  
“See here!  
For three years I have come looking  
for fruit on this fig tree,  
and still I find none.  
Cut it down!  
Why should it be wasting the soil?”  
He replied,  
“Sir, let it alone for one more year,  
until I dig round it  
and put manure on it.  
If it bears fruit next year,  
well and good;  
but if not,  
you can cut it down.”’

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~

## 228 WATCHFUL SLAVES

‘Be dressed for action  
and have your lamps lit;  
be like those who are  
waiting for their master  
to return from the wedding banquet,  
so that they may open the door for him  
as soon as he comes and knocks.  
Blessed are those slaves  
whom the master finds alert  
when he comes;

truly I tell you,  
he will fasten his belt  
and have them sit down to eat,  
and he will come and serve them.  
If he comes during the middle of the night,  
or near dawn  
and finds them so,  
blessed are those slaves.  
'But know this:  
if the owner of the house  
had known at what hour  
the thief was coming,  
he would not have  
let his house be broken into.  
You also must be ready,  
for the Son of Man is coming  
at an unexpected hour.'

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 229 THE FAITHFUL OR THE UNFAITHFUL SLAVE

Peter said,  
'Lord, are you telling this parable  
for us or for everyone?'  
And the Lord said,  
'Who then is the faithful  
and prudent manager  
whom his master will put  
in charge of his slaves,  
to give them their allowance of food  
at the proper time?  
Blessed is that slave  
whom his master will find  
at work when he arrives.  
Truly I tell you,  
he will put that one in charge  
of all his possessions.  
But if that slave says to himself,  
"My master is delayed in coming",

and if he begins to beat the other slaves  
men and women,  
and to eat and drink and get drunk,  
the master of that slave  
will come on a day when  
he does not expect him  
and at an hour that he does not know,  
and will cut him in pieces,  
and put him with the unfaithful.  
That slave who knew  
what his master wanted,  
but did not prepare himself  
or do what was wanted,  
will receive a severe beating.  
But one who did not know  
and did what deserved a beating  
will receive a light beating.  
From everyone to whom much has been given,  
much will be required;  
and from one to whom much has been entrusted,  
even more will be demanded.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 230 TREASURES NEW AND OLD

‘Have you understood all this?’  
They answered, ‘Yes.’  
And he said to them,  
‘Therefore every scribe  
who has been trained for  
the kingdom of heaven  
is like the master of a household  
who brings out of his treasure  
what is new and what is old.’  
When Jesus had finished these parables,  
he left that place.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 231 THE PRAISE OF THE FATHER

Jesus Thanks His Father

At that time Jesus said,  
    ‘I thank you, Father,  
        Lord of heaven and earth,  
            because you have  
                hidden these things from the wise  
            and the intelligent  
and have revealed them to infants;  
    yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.  
All things have been handed  
    over to me by my Father;  
        and no one knows the Son  
            except the Father,  
        and no one knows the Father  
            except the Son and  
        anyone to whom the Son  
            chooses to reveal him.

## VII. HEALING

### HEALING WITHOUT PHARASEE HARASSMENT

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 232. JESUS CLEANSSES A LEPER

A leper came to Jesus begging him,  
    and kneeling he said to him,  
        ‘If you choose, you can make me clean.’  
        Moved with pity,  
    Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him  
        and said to him,

'I do choose.  
Be made clean!  
Immediately the leprosy  
left him,  
and he was made clean.  
After sternly warning him  
he sent him away at once,  
saying to him,  
'See that you say nothing to anyone;  
but go, show yourself to the priest,  
and offer for your cleansing  
what Moses commanded,  
as a testimony to them.'  
But he went out  
and began to proclaim it freely,  
and to spread the word,  
so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly,  
but stayed out in the country;  
and people came to him from every quarter.

As the sun was setting,  
all those who had any  
who were sick with various kinds of diseases  
brought them to him;  
and he laid his hands on  
each of them and cured them.  
Demons also came out of many,  
shouting, 'You are the Son of God!'  
But he rebuked them  
and would not allow them to speak,  
because they knew that he was the Messiah.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 233 JESUS CURES MANY PEOPLE

After Jesus had left that place,

he passed along the Sea of Galilee,  
and he went up the mountain,  
where he sat down.  
Great crowds came to him,  
bringing with them the lame,  
the maimed, the blind, the mute,  
and many others.  
They put them at his feet,  
and he cured them,  
so that the crowd was  
amazed when they saw the mute speaking,  
the maimed whole,  
the lame walking,  
and the blind seeing.  
And they praised the God of Israel.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 234 JESUS CURES A DEAF MAN

Then he returned from the region of Tyre,  
and went by way of Sidon  
towards the Sea of Galilee,  
in the region of the Decapolis.  
They brought to him a deaf man  
who had an impediment in his speech;  
and they begged him  
to lay his hand on him.  
He took him aside in private,  
away from the crowd,  
and put his fingers into his ears,  
and he spat and touched his tongue  
Then looking up to heaven,  
he sighed and said to him,  
'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.'  
and immediately his ears were opened,  
his tongue was released,

and he spoke plainly.

Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one;  
but the more he ordered them,  
the more zealously they proclaimed it.  
They were astounded beyond measure  
saying, 'He has done everything well  
he even makes the deaf to hear  
and the mute to speak.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 235 THE HEALING OF BLIND BARTIMAEUS

They came to Jericho.

As he and his disciples and  
a large crowd were leaving Jericho,  
Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar,  
was sitting by the roadside. 47

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth,  
he began to shout out and say,  
'Jesus, Son of David,  
have mercy on me!' 4

Many sternly ordered him to be quiet,  
but he cried out even more loudly,  
'Son of David, have mercy on me!'

Jesus stood still and said,  
'Call him here.'

And they called the blind man,  
saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.'

So throwing off his cloak,  
he sprang up and came to Jesus

Then Jesus said to him,  
'What do you want me to do for you?'

The blind man said to him,  
'My teacher, let me see again.'

Jesus said to him,  
    ‘Go; your faith has made you well.’  
Immediately he regained his sight  
    and followed him on the way.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

### **236 HEALING THE SICK IN GENNESARET**

When they had crossed over,  
    they came to land at Gennesaret  
    and moored the boat.  
When they got out of the boat,  
    people at once recognized him,  
    and rushed about that whole region  
and began to bring the sick on mats  
    to wherever they heard he was.  
    And wherever he went,  
        into villages or cities or farms,  
    they laid the sick in the market-places,  
    and begged him  
that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak;  
    and all who touched it were healed.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

### **237 JESUS CURES A BLIND MAN AT BETHSAIDA**

They came to Bethsaida.  
    Some people brought a blind man to him  
    and begged him to touch him.  
He took the blind man by the hand  
    and led him out of the village;  
        and when he had put saliva on his eyes  
    and laid his hands on him,  
he asked him,  
    ‘Can you see anything?’

And the man looked up and said,  
‘I can see people,  
but they look like trees, walking.’  
Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again;  
and he looked intently  
and his sight was restored,  
and he saw everything clearly.  
Then he sent him away to his home,  
saying, ‘Do not even go into the village.’

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

### **238 JESUS HEALS ONE WHO WAS MUTE**

After they had gone away,  
a demoniac who was mute  
was brought to him.  
And when the demon  
had been cast out,  
the one who had been mute spoke;  
and the crowds were amazed  
and said, ‘Never has anything like this  
been seen in Israel.’  
But the Pharisees said,  
‘By the ruler of the demons he casts out the demons.’

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

### **239 JESUS HEALS TWO BLIND MEN**

As Jesus went on from there,  
two blind men followed him, crying loudly,  
‘Have mercy on us, Son of David!’  
When he entered the house,  
the blind men came to him;  
and Jesus said to them, ‘

Do you believe that  
I am able to do this?’  
They said to him,  
‘Yes, Lord.’  
Then he touched their eyes  
and said, ‘According to your faith  
let it be done to you.’  
And their eyes were opened.  
Then Jesus sternly ordered them, ‘  
See that no one knows of this.’  
But they went away  
and spread the news about him  
throughout that district.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 240 JESUS CLEANSSES TEN LEPERS

On the way to Jerusalem  
Jesus was going through the region  
between Samaria and Galilee.  
As he entered a village,  
ten lepers approached him.  
Keeping their distance,  
they called out, saying,  
‘Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!’  
When he saw them,  
he said to them,  
‘Go and show yourselves to the priests.’  
And as they went,  
they were made clean.  
Then one of them,  
when he saw that he was healed,  
turned back,  
praising God with a loud voice.  
He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet  
and thanked him.

And he was a Samaritan.  
Then Jesus asked,  
    ‘Were not ten made clean?  
The other nine, where are they?  
Was none of them found to return  
and give praise to God except this foreigner?’  
Then he said to him,  
    ‘Get up and go on your way;  
your faith has made you well.’

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 241 JESUS HEALS A PARALYTIC

One day, while he was teaching  
Pharisees and teachers of the law  
    were sitting nearby  
(they had come from every village of  
    Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem);  
and the power of the Lord  
    was with him to heal.  
Just then some men came,  
    carrying a paralysed man on a bed.  
They were trying to bring him in  
    and lay him before Jesus;  
        but finding no way to bring him in  
            because of the crowd,  
        they went up on the roof  
and let him down with his bed  
    through the tiles  
        into the middle of the crowd  
in front of Jesus.  
When he saw their faith,  
    he said, ‘Friend,  
        your sins are forgiven you.’  
Then the scribes and the Pharisees  
    began to question,  
    ‘Who is this who is speaking blasphemies?  
Who can forgive sins but God alone?’  
When Jesus perceived their questionings,  
he answered them,

‘Why do you raise such questions  
in your hearts?  
Which is easier, to say,  
“Your sins are forgiven you”,  
or to say, “Stand up and walk”?  
But so that you may know  
that the Son of Man  
has authority on earth to forgive sins’  
—he said to the one who was paralysed—  
‘I say to you,  
stand up and take your bed  
and go to your home.’  
Immediately he stood up before them,  
took what he had been lying on,  
and went to his home,  
glorifying God.  
Amazement seized all of them,  
and they glorified God  
and were filled with awe, saying,  
‘We have seen strange things today.’

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 242 THE MAN WITH A WITHERED HAND

He left that place  
and entered their synagogue;  
A man was there with a withered hand,  
and they asked Jesus,  
‘Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath?’  
so that they might accuse him.  
He said to them,  
‘Suppose one of you has only one sheep  
and it falls into a pit on the sabbath;  
will you not lay hold of it  
and lift it out?  
How much more valuable  
is a human being than a sheep!  
So it is lawful to do good

on the sabbath.’  
Then he said to the man,  
Stretch out your hand.’  
He stretched it out,  
and it was restored,  
as sound as the other.  
But the Pharisees went out  
and conspired against him,  
as to how to destroy him

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 243 A MAN BORN BLIND RECEIVES SIGHT

As he walked along,  
he saw a man blind from birth.  
His disciples asked him,  
‘Rabbi, who sinned,  
this man or his parents,  
that he was born blind?’  
Jesus answered,  
‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned;  
he was born blind  
so that God’s works  
might be revealed in him.  
We must work the works  
of him who sent me  
while it is day;  
night is coming when no one can work.  
As long as I am in the world,  
I am the light of the world.’  
When he had said this,  
he spat on the ground  
and made mud with the saliva  
and spread the mud on the man’s eyes,  
saying to him,  
‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam’

(which means Sent).  
Then he went and washed  
and came back able to see.  
The neighbors and  
those who had seen him before  
as a beggar began to ask,  
'Is this not the man  
who used to sit and beg?'  
Some were saying,  
'It is he.'  
Others were saying,  
'No, but it is someone like him.'  
He kept saying, 'I am the man.'  
But they kept asking him,  
'Then how were your eyes opened?'  
He answered,  
'The man called Jesus made mud,  
spread it on my eyes,  
and said to me,  
"Go to Siloam and wash."  
Then I went and washed  
and received my sight.'  
They said to him, 'Where is he?'  
He said, 'I do not know.'

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 244 THE PHARISEES INVESTIGATE THE HEALING

They brought to the Pharisees  
the man who had formerly been blind.  
Now it was a sabbath day  
when Jesus made the mud  
and opened his eyes.  
Then the Pharisees  
also began to ask him how  
he had received his sight.

He said to them, ‘  
He put mud on my eyes.  
Then I washed, and now I see.’  
Some of the Pharisees said,  
‘This man is not from God,  
for he does not observe the sabbath.’  
But others said,  
‘How can a man who is a sinner  
perform such signs?’  
And they were divided.  
So they said again to the blind man, ‘  
What do you say about him?  
It was your eyes he opened.’  
He said,  
‘He is a prophet.’

The Jews did not  
believe that he had been blind  
and had received his sight  
until they called  
the parents of the man  
who had received his sight  
and asked them,  
‘Is this your son,  
who you say was born blind?  
How then does he now see?’  
His parents answered, ‘  
We know that this is our son,  
and that he was born blind;  
but we do not know  
how it is that now he sees,  
nor do we know who opened his eyes.  
Ask him; he is of age.  
He will speak for himself.’  
His parents said this  
because they were afraid of the Jews;

for the Jews had already agreed  
that anyone who confessed  
Jesus to be the Messiah  
would be put out of the synagogue.

Therefore his parents said,  
‘He is of age; ask him.’  
So for the second time  
they called the man  
who had been blind,  
and they said to him,

‘Give glory to God!

We know that this man is a sinner.’

He answered,

‘I do not know whether he is a sinner.

One thing I do know,  
that though I was blind,  
now I see.’

They said to him,

‘What did he do to you?

How did he open your eyes?’

He answered them,

‘I have told you already,  
and you would not listen.

Why do you want to hear it again?

Do you also want to become his disciples?’

Then they reviled him,  
saying, ‘You are his disciple,  
but we are disciples of Moses.

We know that God

has spoken to Moses,

but as for this man,

we do not know where he comes from.’

The man answered, ‘

Here is an astonishing thing!

You do not know where he comes from,

and yet he opened my eyes.  
We know that God  
    does not listen to sinners,  
but he does listen to one who worships him  
    and obeys his will.  
Never since the world began  
    has it been heard  
        that anyone opened the eyes  
        of a person born blind.  
If this man were not from God,  
    he could do nothing.’  
They answered him, ‘  
    You were born entirely in sins,  
        and are you trying to teach us?’  
And they drove him out.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 245 SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

Jesus heard that they had driven him out,  
and when he found him, he said,  
    ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’  
He answered,  
    ‘And who is he, sir?  
        Tell me, so that I may believe in him.’  
Jesus said to him, ‘  
    You have seen him,  
        and the one speaking with you is he.’  
He said, ‘Lord, I believe.’  
    and he worshipped him.

Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgement  
so that those who do not see may see,  
and those who do see  
    may become blind.’  
Some of the Pharisees near him

heard this and said to him,  
‘Surely we are not blind, are we?’  
Jesus said to them,  
‘If you were blind,  
you would not have sin.

But now that you say  
“We see”,  
your sin remains.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 246 JESUS HEALS A CRIPPLED WOMAN

Now he was teaching  
in one of the synagogues  
on the sabbath.  
And just then  
there appeared a woman  
with a spirit  
that had crippled her for eighteen years.  
She was bent over  
and was quite unable to stand up straight.  
When Jesus saw her,  
he called her over and said,  
‘Woman, you are set free from your ailment.’

When he laid his hands on her,  
immediately she stood up straight  
and began praising God.  
But the leader of the synagogue,  
indignant because  
Jesus had cured on the sabbath,  
kept saying to the crowd, ‘  
There are six days on which work ought to be done;  
come on those days and be cured,  
and not on the sabbath day.’

But the Lord answered him and said,  
    'You hypocrites!  
Does not each of you on the sabbath  
    untie his ox or his donkey from the manger,  
    and lead it away to give it water?  
And ought not this woman,  
    a daughter of Abraham  
        whom Satan bound  
    for eighteen long years,  
    be set free from this bondage  
on the sabbath day?  
When he said this,  
    all his opponents were put to shame;  
    and the entire crowd was rejoicing  
    at all the wonderful things  
    that he was doing.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 247 JESUS HEALS THE MAN WITH DROPSY

On one occasion  
    when Jesus was going  
    to the house of a leader  
    of the Pharisees  
    to eat a meal on the sabbath,  
they were watching him closely.

Just then, in front of him,  
    there was a man who had dropsy.  
    And Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees,  
    'Is it lawful to cure people on the sabbath, or not?'  
    But they were silent.  
    So Jesus took him  
        and healed him,  
    and sent him away.  
Then he said to them,

‘If one of you has a child  
or an ox that has fallen into a well,  
will you not immediately pull it out  
on a sabbath day?’  
And they could not reply to this.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 248 JESUS HEALS ON THE SABBATH

After this there was a festival of the Jews,  
and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.  
Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate  
there is a pool,  
called in Hebrew Beth-zatha,  
which has five porticoes.  
In these lay many invalid  
blind, lame, and paralysed.  
One man was there  
who had been ill  
for thirty-eight years.  
When Jesus saw him lying there  
and knew that he had been there  
a long time, he said to him,  
‘Do you want to be made well?’  
The sick man answered him,  
‘Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool  
when the water is stirred up;  
and while I am making my way,  
someone else steps down ahead of me.’  
Jesus said to him,  
‘Stand up, take your mat and walk.’  
At once the man was made well,  
and he took up his mat  
and began to walk.  
Now that day was a sabbath.  
So the Jews said to the man

who had been cured,  
    ‘It is the sabbath;  
        it is not lawful for you  
            to carry your mat.’  
    But he answered them, ‘  
    The man who made me well  
said to me, “Take up your mat and walk.”’  
They asked him,  
    ‘Who is the man who said to you,  
    “Take it up and walk?”’  
Now the man who had been healed  
    did not know who it was,  
        for Jesus had disappeared  
            in the crowd that was there.  
    Later Jesus found him in the temple  
    and said to him,  
‘See, you have been made well!  
    Do not sin any more,  
        so that nothing worse happens to you.’  
    The man went away  
        and told the Jews  
    that it was Jesus who had made him well.  
Therefore the Jews  
    started persecuting Jesus,  
because he was doing such things  
    on the sabbath.  
But Jesus answered them,  
‘My Father is still working,  
    and I also am working.’  
For this reason the Jews were seeking  
    all the more to kill him,  
because he was not only breaking the sabbath,  
    but was also calling God his own Father,  
        thereby making himself equal to God.

## HEALING FROM A DISTANCE

## 249 JESUS HEALS AN OFFICIAL'S SON

Then he came again  
to Cana in Galilee  
where he had changed  
the water into wine.

Now there was a royal official  
whose son lay ill in Capernaum

When the official heard  
that Jesus had come  
from Judea to Galilee,  
he went and begged him  
to come down and heal his son,  
for he was at the point of death.

Then Jesus said to him,  
'Unless you see signs and wonders  
you will not believe.'

The official said to him,  
'Sir, come down before  
my little boy dies.'

Jesus said to him,  
'Go; your son will live.'

The man believed  
the word that Jesus spoke  
to him and started on his way.  
As he was going down,  
his slaves met him  
and told him that his child was alive.

So he asked them  
the hour when he began to recover,

and they said to him,  
'Yesterday at one in the afternoon  
the fever left him.'  
The father realized  
that this was the hour  
when Jesus had said to him,  
'Your son will live.'

So he himself believed,  
along with his whole household

Now this was the second sign  
that Jesus did after coming  
from Judea to Galilee.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 250 JESUS HEALS A CENTURION'S SERVANT

When he entered Capernaum  
a centurion came to him  
appealing to him and saying,  
'Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed  
in terrible distress.

Jesus said to him  
I will come and cure him.

The centurion answered  
'Lord, I am not worthy  
to have you come under my roof  
but only speak the word  
and my servant will be healed.

For I also am a man under authority,  
with soldiers under me;  
and I say to one,  
"Go", and he goes,

and to another, "Come",  
and he comes,  
and to my slave, "  
Do this", and the slave does it.'

When Jesus heard him,  
he was amazed and said  
to those who followed him, '  
Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel  
have I found such faith.  
I tell you, many will come  
from east and west  
and will eat with  
Abraham and Isaac and Jacob  
in the kingdom of heaven,  
while the heirs of the kingdom  
will be thrown into the outer darkness  
where there will be weeping  
and gnashing of teeth.'

And to the centurion Jesus said  
Go, let it be done for you according to your faith.  
And the servant was healed in that hour.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 251 THE CANAANITE WOMAN'S FAITH

Jesus left that place  
and went away to  
the district of Tyre and Sidon  
Just then a Canaanite woman  
from that region came out  
and started shouting,  
'Have mercy on me, Lord,  
Son of David;  
my daughter is tormented by a demon.'

But Jesus did not answer her at all.  
His disciples came and urged him,  
saying, 'Send her away,  
for she keeps shouting after us.'

He answered,  
'I was sent only to the lost sheep  
of the house of Israel.

But she came and knelt before him  
saying, 'Lord, help me.

He answered,  
'It is not fair to take the children's food  
and throw it to the dogs.'

She said, 'Yes, Lord,  
yet even the dogs  
eat the crumbs that fall  
from their masters' table.'

Then Jesus answered her,  
Woman, great is your faith!  
Let it be done for you as you wish.  
And her daughter was healed instantly.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## **252 JESUS HEALS THE GERASENE DEMONIAIC**

They came to the other side of the lake,  
to the country of the Gerasenes.  
And when he had  
stepped out of the boat,  
immediately a man out of the tombs  
with an unclean spirit met him.

He lived among the tombs;  
and no one could restrain him any more,  
even with a chain;  
for he had often been restrained  
with shackles and chains,  
but the chains he wrenched apart,  
and the shackles he broke in pieces;  
and no one  
had the strength to subdue him.  
Night and day among the tombs  
and on the mountains  
he was always howling  
and bruising himself with stones.  
When he saw Jesus from a distance,  
he ran and bowed down before him;  
and he shouted  
at the top of his voice,

‘What have you to do with me,  
Jesus, Son of the Most High God?  
I adjure you by God,  
do not torment me.’  
For he had said to him,  
‘Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!’  
Then Jesus asked him,  
‘What is your name?’  
He replied, ‘My name is Legion;  
for we are many.’  
He begged him earnestly  
not to send them out of the country.  
Now there on the hillside  
a great herd of swine was feeding;  
and the unclean spirits begged him,

‘Send us into the swine;  
let us enter them.’

So he gave them permission.  
And the unclean spirits came out  
and entered the swine;  
and the herd,  
numbering about two thousand,  
rushed down the steep bank  
into the lake,  
and were drowned in the lake.

The swineherds ran off  
and told it in the city  
and in the country.  
Then people came to see  
what it was that had happened.

They came to Jesus  
and saw the demoniac  
sitting there,  
clothed and in his right mind,  
the very man  
who had had the legion;  
and they were afraid.

Those who had seen  
what had happened to the demoniac  
and to the swine reported it.

Then they began to beg Jesus  
to leave their neighborhood.

As he was getting into the boat,  
the man who had been possessed by demons  
begged him that he might be with him.

But Jesus refused, and said to him,  
'Go home to your friends,  
and tell them how  
much the Lord has done for you,  
and what mercy he has shown you.'

And he went away  
and began to proclaim in the Decapolis

how much Jesus had done for him;  
and everyone was amazed.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace*  
~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 253 THE MAN WITH AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT

They went to Capernaum;  
and when the sabbath came,  
he entered the synagogue  
and taught.

They were astounded  
at his teaching,  
for he taught them  
as one having authority,  
and not as the scribes.

Just then there was in their synagogue  
a man with an unclean spirit,  
and he cried out,  
‘What have you to do with us,  
Jesus of Nazareth?  
Have you come to destroy us?  
I know who you are,  
the Holy One of God.’

But Jesus rebuked him, saying,  
‘Be silent, and come out of him!’

And the unclean spirit,  
throwing him into convulsions  
and crying with a loud voice,  
came out of him.

They were all amazed,  
and they kept on asking one another,

‘What is this?  
A new teaching—with authority!

He commands even the unclean spirits,  
and they obey him.'  
At once his fame began to spread  
throughout the surrounding region  
of Galilee.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 254 JESUS AND BEELZEBUL

Then they brought to him  
a demoniac who was blind and mute;  
and he cured him,  
so that the one who had  
been mute could speak and see.  
All the crowds were amazed and said,  
'Can this be the Son of David?'

But when the Pharisees heard it,  
they said, 'It is only by Beelzebul,  
the ruler of the demons,  
that this fellow casts out the demons  
He knew what  
they were thinking  
and said to them, '

Every kingdom divided  
against itself is laid waste,  
and no city or house divided  
against itself will stand.  
If Satan casts out Satan,  
he is divided against himself;  
how then will his kingdom stand?  
If I cast out demons by Beelzebul,  
by whom do your own exorcists  
cast them out?  
Therefore they will be your judges.

but if it is by the Spirit of God  
that I cast out demons,  
then the kingdom of God  
has come to you.  
Or how can one enter  
a strong man's house  
and plunder his property,  
without first tying up the strong man?  
Then indeed  
the house can be plundered.  
Whoever is not with me is against me,  
and whoever does not gather  
with me scatters

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 255 ANOTHER EXORIST

John said to him,  
‘Teacher, we saw someone  
casting out demons in your name,  
and we tried to stop him,  
because he was not following us.’  
But Jesus said, ‘  
Do not stop him;  
for no one who does a deed of power  
in my name  
will be able soon afterwards  
to speak evil of me.  
Whoever is not against  
us is for us.  
For truly I tell you,  
whoever gives you  
a cup of water to drink

because you bear the name

of Christ will by no means  
lose the reward.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 256 THE HEALING OF A BOY WITH A SPIRIT

When they came to the disciples,  
they saw a great crowd around them,  
and some scribes arguing with them.  
When the whole crowd saw him,  
they were immediately overcome with awe,  
and they ran forward to greet him.  
He asked them, ‘  
What are you arguing about with them?’  
Someone from the crowd answered him,  
‘Teacher, I brought you my son;  
he has a spirit that  
makes him unable to speak;  
and whenever it seizes him,  
it dashes him down;  
and he foams and grinds his teeth  
and becomes rigid;  
and I asked your disciples to cast it out,  
but they could not do so.’  
He answered them,  
‘You faithless generation,  
how much longer must I be among you?  
How much longer  
must I put up with you?  
Bring him to me.’  
And they brought the boy to him  
When the spirit saw him,  
immediately it threw the boy  
into convulsions,  
and he fell on the ground  
and rolled about,

foaming at the mouth.

Jesus asked the father,  
'How long has this been happening to him?'  
and he said, 'From childhood.

It has often cast him  
into the fire and into the water,  
to destroy him;  
but if you are able to do anything,  
have pity on us  
and help us.'

Jesus said to him,  
'If you are able!  
All things can be done  
for the one who believes.'

Immediately the father  
of the child cried out,  
'I believe; help my unbelief!'  
When Jesus saw  
that a crowd  
came running together,  
he rebuked the unclean spirit,  
saying to it,

'You spirit that keep this boy  
from speaking and hearing,  
I command you,  
come out of him,  
and never enter him again!'

After crying out  
and convulsing him terribly,  
it came out,  
and the boy was like a corpse,  
so that most of them said,  
'He is dead.'

But Jesus took him by the hand  
and lifted him up,  
and he was able to stand.

When he had entered the house  
his disciples asked him privately,  
‘Why could we not cast it out?’  
He said to them,  
‘This kind can come out  
only through prayer.’

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 257 THE RETURN OF THE UNCLEAN SPIRIT

‘When the unclean spirit  
has gone out of a person,  
it wanders through waterless regions  
looking for a resting-place,  
but it finds none.  
Then it says,  
“I will return to my house  
from which I came.”  
When it comes,  
it finds it empty, swept, and put in order  
Then it goes  
and brings along seven other spirits  
more evil than itself,  
and they enter and live there;  
and the last state of that person  
is worse than the first.  
So will it be also  
with this evil generation.’

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 258 A GIRL RESTORED TO LIFE AND A WOMAN HEALED

When Jesus had crossed again  
in the boat to the other side,  
a great crowd gathered round him;  
and he was by the lake.  
Then one of the leaders of the synagogue  
named Jairus came and, when he saw him,  
fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly,  
'My little daughter is  
at the point of death.  
Come and lay your hands on her,  
so that she may be made well,  
and live.'  
So he went with him.  
and a large crowd followed him  
and pressed in on him.

Now there was a woman  
who had been suffering  
from hemorrhages for twelve years.  
She had endured much  
under many physicians,  
and had spent all that she had;  
and she was no better,  
but rather grew worse.  
She had heard about Jesus,  
and came up behind him in the crowd  
and touched his cloak,  
for she said,  
If I but touch his clothes,  
I will be made well.'  
Immediately her haemorrhage stopped;  
and she felt in her body  
that she was healed of her disease.  
Immediately aware

that power had gone forth from him  
Jesus turned about in the crowd and said,  
Who touched my clothes?’  
and his disciples said to him,  
You see the crowd pressing in on you;  
how can you say,  
“Who touched me?”’  
He looked all round  
to see who had done it.  
But the woman,  
knowing what had happened to her,  
came in fear and trembling,  
fell down before him,  
and told him the whole truth.  
He said to her,  
‘Daughter, your faith has made you well;  
go in peace,  
and be healed of your disease.’  
While he was still speaking,  
some people  
came from the leader’s house to say,  
‘Your daughter is dead.  
Why trouble the teacher any further?’  
But overhearing what they said,  
Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue,  
‘Do not fear,  
only believe.’  
He allowed no one to follow him  
except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James.  
When they came to the house  
of the leader of the synagogue,  
he saw a commotion,  
people weeping and wailing loudly.  
When he had entered, he said to them,  
‘Why do you make a commotion and weep?  
The child is not dead but sleeping.’

And they laughed at him.  
Then he put them all outside,  
and took the child's father and mother  
and those who were with him,  
and went in where the child was.  
He took her by the hand  
and said to her,  
'Talitha cum', which means, 'Little girl, get up!'  
and immediately the girl got up  
and began to walk about  
(she was twelve years of age).  
At this they were overcome  
with amazement.  
He strictly ordered them  
that no one should know this,  
and told them to give her  
something to eat.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 259 JESUS RAISES THE WIDOW'S SON AT NAIN

Soon afterwards he  
went to a town called Nain,  
and his disciples  
and a large crowd went with him.  
As he approached the gate of the town  
a man who had died  
was being carried out.  
He was his mother's only son,  
and she was a widow;  
and with her was  
a large crowd from the town.  
When the Lord saw her,  
he had compassion for her

and said to her, 'Do not weep.'  
Then he came forward  
and touched the bier,  
and the bearers stood still.  
and he said,  
'Young man,  
I say to you, rise!'  
The dead man sat up  
and began to speak,  
and Jesus gave him to his mother.  
Fear seized all of them;  
and they glorified God,  
saying, 'A great prophet has risen among us!'  
and 'God has looked favourably on his people!  
This word about him  
spread throughout Judea  
and all the surrounding country.

## VIII. MIRACLES

### MIRACLES

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

### 260 JESUS STILLS A STORM

On that day,  
when evening had come,  
he said to them,  
'Let us go across to the other side.'  
and leaving the crowd behind,  
they took him  
with them in the boat,  
just as he was.

Other boats were with him  
A great gale arose,  
and the waves beat into the boat,  
so that the boat was already being swamped.  
But he was in the stern,  
asleep on the cushion;  
and they woke him up  
and said to him, ‘  
Teacher, do you not care  
that we are perishing?’  
He woke up and rebuked the wind,  
and said to the sea,  
‘Peace! Be still!’  
Then the wind ceased,  
and there was a dead calm.

He said to them,  
‘Why are you afraid?  
Have you still no faith?’  
and they were  
filled with great awe  
and said to one another,  
‘Who then is this,  
that even the wind and the sea  
obey him?’

As he went ashore,  
he saw a great crowd;  
and he had compassion for them,  
because they were like  
sheep without a shepherd;  
and he began to teach them many things  
When it grew late,  
his disciples came to him  
and said, ‘This is a deserted place,

and the hour is now very late;  
send them away  
so that they may  
go into the surrounding country  
and villages  
and buy something for  
themselves to eat.’  
But he answered them,  
‘You give them something to eat.’  
They said to him,  
‘Are we to go and buy  
two hundred denarii worth of bread,  
and give it to them to eat?’  
And he said to them,  
‘How many loaves have you?  
Go and see.’  
When they had found out,  
they said, ‘Five, and two fish.’  
Then he ordered them  
to get all the people  
to sit down in groups  
on the green grass.  
So they sat down  
in groups of hundreds  
and of fifties.  
Taking the five loaves  
and the two fish,  
he looked up to heaven,  
and blessed and broke the loaves,  
and gave them to his disciples  
to set before the people;  
and he divided the two fish  
among them all.

And all ate and were filled;  
and they took up  
twelve baskets full of broken pieces  
and of the fish.  
Those who had eaten the loaves  
numbered five thousand men.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace*  
~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 261 JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER

Immediately he made the disciples  
get into the boat and  
go on ahead to the other side,  
while he dismissed the crowds.  
And after he had dismissed the crowds,  
he went up the mountain  
by himself to pray.  
When evening came,  
he was there alone,  
but by this time the boat,  
battered by the waves,  
was far from the land,  
for the wind was against them.  
And early in the morning  
he came walking towards them  
on the lake.  
But when the disciples  
saw him walking on the lake,  
they were terrified,  
saying, 'It is a ghost!'  
And they cried out in fear.  
But immediately Jesus spoke to them

and said, 'Take heart, it is I;  
do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him,  
Lord, if it is you,  
command me to come to you  
on the water.'

He said, 'Come.'

So Peter got out of the boat,  
started walking on the water,  
and came towards Jesus.

But when he noticed the strong wind,  
he became frightened,  
and beginning to sink,  
he cried out, 'Lord, save me!'

Jesus immediately reached out  
his hand and caught him,  
saying to him,

'You of little faith,  
why did you doubt?'

When they got into the boat,  
the wind ceased

And those in the boat  
worshipped him, saying,

'Truly you are the Son of God.'

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 262 FEEDING THE FOUR THOUSAND

In those days  
when there was again  
a great crowd  
without anything to eat,  
he called his disciples

and said to them,  
‘I have compassion for the crowd,  
because they have been with me now  
for three days and  
have nothing to eat.  
If I send them away hungry  
to their homes,  
they will faint on the way  
and some of them  
have come from a great distance.’  
His disciples replied,  
‘How can one feed these people  
with bread here in the desert?’  
He asked them,  
‘How many loaves do you have?’  
They said, ‘Seven.’  
Then he ordered the crowd to sit down  
on the ground;  
and he took the seven loaves,  
and after giving thanks  
he broke them  
and gave them to his disciples  
to distribute;  
and they distributed them to the crowd.  
They had also a few small fish;  
and after blessing them,  
he ordered that these too  
should be distributed.  
They ate and were filled;  
and they took up  
the broken pieces left over,  
seven baskets full.  
Now there were about four thousand people.

And he sent them away.  
And immediately he got into the boat  
with his disciples and  
went to the district of Dalmanutha.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 263 JESUS AND THE TEMPLE TAX

When they reached Capernaum,  
the collectors of the temple tax  
came to Peter and said,  
'Does your teacher  
not pay the temple tax?'  
He said, 'Yes, he does.'  
and when he came home,  
Jesus spoke of it first,  
asking, 'What do you think, Simon?  
From whom do kings of the earth  
take toll or tribute?  
From their children or from others?  
When Peter said, 'From others',  
Jesus said to him,  
'Then the children are free.  
However, so that we do not give offence to them  
go to the lake and cast a hook;  
take the first fish that comes up;  
and when you open its mouth,  
you will find a coin;  
take that and give it to them  
for you and me.'

## IX. JOHN THE BAPTIST

## JOHN THE BAPTIST II

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~

### 264 THE QUESTION ABOUT FASTING

Now John's disciples  
and the Pharisees were fasting;  
and people came and said to him,  
'Why do John's disciples  
and the disciples of the Pharisees fast,  
but your disciples do not fast?'

Jesus said to them,  
'The wedding-guests cannot fast  
while the bridegroom is with them,  
can they?  
As long as they  
have the bridegroom with them,  
they cannot fast.

The days will come  
when the bridegroom  
is taken away from them,  
and then they will fast on that day.  
No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth  
on an old cloak;  
otherwise, the patch pulls away from it,  
the new from the old,  
and a worse tear is made.

And no one puts new wine  
into old wineskins;  
otherwise, the wine will burst the skins,  
and the wine is lost,  
and so are the skins;

but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 265 MESSENGERS FROM JOHN THE BAPTIST

The disciples of John  
reported all these things to him.  
So John summoned  
two of his disciples  
and sent them to the Lord to ask,  
Are you the one who is to come,  
or are we to wait for another?’  
When the men had come to him,  
they said, ‘John the Baptist  
has sent us to you to ask,  
Are you the one who is to come,  
or are we to wait for another?’”  
Jesus had just then cured  
many people of  
diseases, plagues, and evil spirits,  
and had given sight to many  
who were blind.  
And he answered them,  
‘Go and tell John  
what you have seen and heard:  
the blind receive their sight,  
the lame walk,  
the lepers are cleansed,  
the deaf hear, the dead are raised,  
the poor have good news  
brought to them.  
And blessed is anyone  
who takes no offence at me.’

When John's messengers had gone,  
Jesus began to speak to the crowds  
about John:  
What did you go out into the wilderness  
to look at?  
A reed shaken by the wind?  
What then did you  
go out to see?  
Someone dressed in soft robes?  
Look, those who put on fine clothing  
and live in luxury  
are in royal palaces  
What then did you go out to see?  
A prophet?  
Yes, I tell you,  
and more than a prophet.  
This is the one about whom it is written,  
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare  
your way before you."  
I tell you,  
among those born of women  
no one is greater than John;  
yet the least in the kingdom of God  
is greater than he.'  
and all the people who heard this,  
including the tax-collectors,  
acknowledged the justice of God,  
because they had been baptized  
with John's baptism.

But by refusing to be baptized by him,  
the Pharisees and the lawyers

rejected God's purpose for themselves.)  
"To what then will I compare  
the people of this generation,  
and what are they like?  
They are like children  
sitting in the market-place  
and calling to one another,  
"We played the flute for you,  
and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not weep."  
For John the Baptist  
has come eating no bread  
and drinking no wine,  
and you say,  
"He has a demon";  
the Son of Man has come  
eating and drinking,  
and you say,  
"Look, a glutton and a drunkard,  
a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!"  
Nevertheless,  
wisdom is vindicated by all her children.'

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~*WorldPeace*~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 266 THE COMING OF ELIJAH

As they were coming down the mountain,  
he ordered them  
to tell no one  
about what they had seen,  
until after the Son of Man  
had risen from the dead.  
So they kept the matter to themselves,

questioning what this  
    rising from the dead could mean.  
Then they asked him,  
‘Why do the scribes say  
    that Elijah must come first?’  
He said to them,  
‘Elijah is indeed coming first  
    to restore all things.  
How then is it written  
    about the Son of Man,  
        that he is to go through many sufferings  
        and be treated with contempt?  
But I tell you that Elijah has come  
    and they did to him whatever they pleased,  
        as it is written about him.’  
and if you are willing to accept it,  
    he is Elijah who is to come.  
Let anyone with ears listen!

For Herod had arrested John,  
    bound him,  
        and put him in prison  
        on account of Herodias,  
        his brother Philip’s wife,  
        because John had been telling him,  
‘It is not lawful for you to have her.  
Though Herod wanted to put him to death,  
    he feared the crowd,  
        because they regarded him as a prophet.  
But when Herod’s birthday came,  
    the daughter of Herodias  
        danced before the company,  
    and she pleased Herod so much  
        that he promised on oath

to grant her whatever  
she might ask.  
Prompted by her mother,  
she said, 'Give me the  
head of John the Baptist  
here on a platter.'  
The king was grieved,  
yet out of regard for his oaths  
and for the guests,  
he commanded it to be given;  
he sent and had John beheaded  
in the prison. The head was brought  
on a platter  
and given to the girl,  
who brought it to her mother.  
His disciples came and took the body  
and buried it;  
then they went and told Jesus.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace*~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 267 JESUS AND JOHN THE BAPTIST

After this Jesus and his disciples  
went into the Judean countryside,  
and he spent some time there  
with them and baptized.  
John also was baptizing  
at Aenon near Salim  
because water was abundant there;  
and people kept coming  
and were being baptized  
John, of course, had not yet been thrown into prison

Now a discussion about purification arose  
 between John's disciples and a Jew.  
 They came to John and said to him  
 'Rabbi, the one  
 who was with you across the Jordan,  
 to whom you testified,  
 here he is baptizing,  
 and all are going to him.'  
 John answered,  
 'No one can receive anything  
 except what has been given from heaven  
 You yourselves are my witnesses  
 that I said, "I am not the Messiah,  
 but I have been sent ahead of him."  
 He who has the bride is the bridegroom  
 The friend of the bridegroom,  
 who stands and hears him,  
 rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice.  
 For this reason my joy has been fulfilled.  
 He must increase, but I must decrease.'

## X. DISCIPLES PART 2

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## 268 THE TWELVE APOSTLES

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples  
 and gave them authority over unclean spirits,  
 to cast them out,  
 and to cure every disease  
 and every sickness.  
 These are the names of the twelve apostles:  
 first, Simon, also known as Peter,

and his brother Andrew;  
James son of Zebedee,  
and his brother John;  
Philip and Bartholomew;  
Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector;  
James son of Alphaeus,  
and Thaddaeus;  
Simon the Cananaean,  
and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 269 THE MISSION OF THE TWELVE

These twelve Jesus sent out  
with the following instructions:  
Go nowhere among the Gentiles,  
and enter no town of the Samaritans,  
but go rather to the lost sheep  
of the house of Israel.  
As you go, proclaim the good news,  
“The kingdom of heaven has come near.”  
Cure the sick, raise the dead,  
cleanses the lepers, cast out demons.  
You received without payment;  
give without payment.  
Take no gold, or silver,  
or copper in your belts,  
no bag for your journey,  
or two tunics, or sandals,  
or a staff;  
for labourers deserve their food.  
Whatever town or village you enter,  
find out who in it is worthy,

and stay there until you leave.  
As you enter the house,  
greet it.  
If the house is worthy,  
let your peace come upon it;  
but if it is not worthy,  
let your peace return to you.  
If anyone will not welcome you  
or listen to your words,  
shake off the dust from your feet  
as you leave that house or town.  
Truly I tell you,  
it will be more tolerable  
for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah  
on the day of judgement  
than for that town.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 270 COMING PERSECUTIONS

‘See, I am sending you out like sheep  
into the midst of wolves;  
so be wise as serpents  
and innocent as doves.  
Beware of them,  
for they will hand you over to councils  
and flog you in their synagogues;  
and you will be  
dragged before governors  
and kings because of me,  
as a testimony to them  
and the Gentiles.  
When they hand you over,

do not worry  
    about how you are to speak  
    or what you are to say;  
for what you are to say  
    will be given to you at that time;  
for it is not you who speak,  
but the Spirit of your Father  
    speaking through you.  
Brother will betray brother to death  
    and a father his child,  
    and children will rise against parents  
        and have them put to death;  
        and you will be hated  
        by all because of my name  
But the one who endures  
    to the end will be saved  
When they persecute you  
    in one town,  
        flee to the next;  
        for truly I tell you,  
        you will not have gone through  
        all the towns of Israel  
    before the Son of Man comes.  
'A disciple is not above the teacher,  
    nor a slave above the master;  
        it is enough for the disciple  
    to be like the teacher,  
    and the slave like the master  
If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul  
    how much more will they  
        malign those of his household!

~~~~+~~~~+~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~~+~~~+~~~~ \*

## 271 WHOM TO FEAR

'So have no fear of them  
for nothing is covered up  
that will not be uncovered,  
and nothing secret  
that will not become known.  
What I say to you in the dark  
tell in the light;  
and what you hear whispered,  
proclaim from the housetops  
Do not fear those who kill the body  
but cannot kill the soul;  
rather fear him who can destroy  
both soul and body in hell.  
Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?  
Yet not one of them  
will fall to the ground  
unperceived by your Father.  
And even the hairs of your head  
are all counted.  
So do not be afraid;  
you are of more value than many sparrows.  
'Everyone therefore  
who acknowledges me before others,  
I also will acknowledge  
before my Father in heaven;  
but whoever denies me before others,  
I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

## 272 REWARDS

‘Whoever welcomes you  
welcomes me,  
and whoever welcomes me  
welcomes the one who sent me.  
Whoever welcomes a prophet  
in the name of a prophet  
will receive a prophet’s reward;  
and whoever welcomes a righteous person  
in the name of a righteous person  
will receive the reward of the righteous;  
and whoever gives  
even a cup of cold water  
to one of these little ones  
in the name of a disciple  
truly I tell you,  
none of these will lose their reward.’

~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 273 FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

The apostles gathered around Jesus  
and told him all that  
they had done and taught.  
He said to them,  
‘Come away to a deserted place  
all by yourselves and rest a while.’  
For many were coming and going,  
and they had no leisure even to eat.  
And they went away in the boat  
to a deserted place by themselves.  
Now many saw them going

and recognized them,  
and they hurried there on foot  
from all the towns  
and arrived ahead of them

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 274 THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Now large crowds  
were travelling with him;  
and he turned and said to them  
Whoever comes to me  
and does not hate father and mother  
wife and children,  
brothers and sisters,  
yes, and even life itself,  
cannot be my disciple.  
Whoever does not carry the cross  
and follow me  
cannot be my disciple.  
For which of you,  
intending to build a tower  
does not first sit down  
and estimate the cost,  
to see whether he has enough  
to complete it?

Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation  
and is not able to finish,  
all who see it  
will begin to ridicule him, saying,  
This fellow began to build  
and was not able to finish.

Or what king, going out  
to wage war against another king,  
will not sit down first  
and consider whether  
he is able with ten thousand  
to oppose the one  
who comes against him  
with twenty thousand?  
If he cannot, then,  
while the other is still far away,  
he sends a delegation and  
asks for the terms of peace.  
So therefore, none of you  
can become my disciple  
if you do not give up all your possessions.

~~~~~+~~~~~+~~~~~ *WorldPeace* ~+~~~~~+~~~~~ \*

## 275 THE MISSION OF THE SEVENTY

After this the Lord appointed seventy others  
and sent them on ahead of him  
in pairs to every town  
and place where he himself  
intended to go.  
He said to them,  
“The harvest is plentiful,  
but the laborers are few;  
therefore ask the  
Lord of the harvest  
to send out labourers into his harvest.  
Go on your way.  
See, I am sending you out  
like lambs into the midst of wolves.  
Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals;

and greet no one on the road.  
Whatever house you enter,  
first say, "Peace to this house!"  
and if anyone is there  
who shares in peace,  
your peace will rest on that person;  
but if not, it will return to you.  
Remain in the same house,  
eating and drinking  
whatever they provide  
for the laborer deserves to be paid.  
Do not move about from house to house.  
Whenever you enter a town  
and its people welcome you,  
eat what is set before you;  
cure the sick who are there,  
and say to them,  
"The kingdom of God  
has come near to you."  
But whenever you enter a town  
and they do not welcome you,  
go out into its streets and say,  
Even the dust of your town  
that clings to our feet,  
we wipe off in protest against you.  
Yet know this:  
the kingdom of God has come near."  
I tell you,  
on that day it will be more tolerable for  
Sodom than for that town.

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