

The Gospel – Matthew's Report

Chapter 1 (18 - 25)

This is how Jesus came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph. But before they lived together, Mary became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit.

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and said "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to live with Mary as your wife.

Her baby has been conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son.

You must name him 'Jesus' ('God **saves**') because he will **save** his people from their sins".

Joseph took Mary to his home as his wife. She gave birth to a son, Jesus.

Dear Jesus, Son of God, son of Mary, step-son of Joseph, please help me understand how you are the Saviour of the world

Chapter 2 (1 -12)

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem, during the reign of King Herod. Some months after Jesus' birth, several wise men from the East came to Jerusalem. They said "Where is the infant king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to offer him honor"

King Herod felt threatened by this news. He knew from the Scriptures that the promised Saviour would be born in Bethlehem.

So Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem, pretending that he too would like to offer honor to the child.

The wise men headed for Bethlehem, guided by the star. The star filled them with joy. The star stopped over the place where the child was.

The wise men fell to their knees, and honored the child. They offered him gifts of gold, incense and myrrh.

Then they returned to their own country by a different way, having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod.

Jesus, help me to honor you like the wise men

Chapter 2 (13 - 23)

After the wise men left Bethlehem, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and said

"Go quickly to Egypt, because Herod wants to kill the child". That same night, Joseph got up and set out for Egypt with Mary and Jesus.

Herod was angry after being tricked by the wise men. He got his soldiers to kill all baby boys two years old or younger in Bethlehem.

After Herod died some months later, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream, and told him to return to Israel.

Joseph, Mary and Jesus moved to the town of Nazareth, thus fulfilling the prophecy about the Saviour: "He will be called a Nazarene".

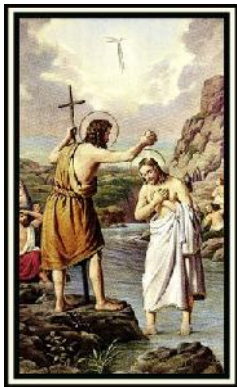
**Jesus, you were once a refugee.
Please bless all refugees in the world today**

Chapter 3 (1 – 17)

About 30 years after Jesus was born, a man began preaching repentance, and baptizing people in the river Jordan. This man was John the Baptist. His message was "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand". John fulfilled the prophecy: "A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord". John said "I baptize you with water, but one is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit".

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. After Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened, and Jesus saw the Spirit of God coming down on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said "This is my Son, the Beloved. My favor rests on him".

**Jesus, please help me
to prepare your way,
like John the Baptist**



Chapter 4 (1 - 11)

After he was baptized, Jesus spent about 40 days praying and fasting in the desert. During this time, he was tempted by Satan. "If you are the Son of God, change some stones into bread" said Satan.

Jesus replied "Human life needs more than bread. Life needs God's message".

Satan then took Jesus to a high place and said "Throw yourself down, since the angels will protect you". Jesus replied "Presumption is a sin".

Then Satan took Jesus to a high mountain and showed him all the nations of the world. "Worship me and I will give you all these nations" said Satan.

Jesus replied "Go away, Satan! Only God is to be worshipped".

The devil then went away.

Jesus, please protect us from Satan and from evil

Chapter 4 (12 - 25)

After his time in the desert, Jesus began preaching the same message as John the Baptist: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand".

Jesus called four fishermen to become "fishers of men": Peter and his brother Andrew, James and his brother John. They left their boats and went with Jesus.

Jesus went all round the area of Galilee, preaching in local prayer halls and healing all kinds of sick people. News spread about the sick being healed, and soon even people from distant places came to Jesus to be healed

Jesus, please heal the people I know who are sick: (..names..)

Chapter 5 (1 - 12)

Jesus said to the crowds:

Blessed are poor and simple of heart people.

They belong to the kingdom of heaven

Blessed are people who are going through great sorrow. Their hearts will be filled with peace

Blessed are people who lead just and honest lives.

They will see the victory of goodness

Blessed are people who show mercy to others.

God will be merciful to them.

Blessed are people who have a clean heart.

They will see God.

Blessed are people who are peacemakers.

They are God's children

Blessed are people who are persecuted

for the cause of right.

They will receive a great reward in heaven.

Jesus, help me be merciful and kind and just

Chapter 5 (13 - 48)

Jesus said to the crowds:

You are the salt of the earth.

But if salt loses its taste, it's no use for anything.

You are the light of the world.

Let the world see your light, your good deeds.

When people see you doing good deeds,
people will praise God

I have not come to abolish the Jewish religion.
I have come to raise it to a higher level of
goodness.

Your goodness must not just be something
superficial. Your goodness must be something
from the heart

You must avoid anger and insult,
just like you avoid murder.

If you have offended someone, say "Sorry".

You must avoid lustful looks and thoughts.

Looking at someone lustfully,
is immorality of the heart.

Love and pray for people who are unkind to you.
This is the way to practise the highest level of
goodness

**Jesus, please help me practice
a higher level of goodness**

Chapter 6 (1 - 15)

Jesus said to the crowds:

When you do a good deed, do it for its own sake, not just to get people to praise you.

When you pray, love to pray in private in your heart. Don't be looking for people to notice and praise you.

When you pray, there's no need to rave on and on. God is not deaf.

Prayer is not a lawyer arguing a case.

Prayer is a child speaking with simple trust, like this:

**Our Father in heaven,
may everyone love and honor
you.**

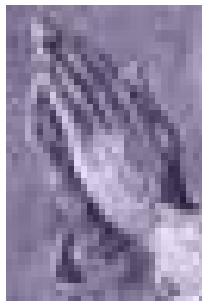
**Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Thank you for enough food
for today.**

Forgive us as we forgive others.

Save us in time of trial.

Protect us from evil.



**Jesus, help me remember that each time I pray
"The Our Father", you are praying with me.
Your Father = my Father = our Father**

Chapter 6 (16 - 24)

Jesus said to the crowds: When you do a bit of fasting, don't run round telling the world what you are doing. Secret fasting is spiritually powerful. Your most important account is with the Bank of Heaven. Build up your deposit with lots of good deeds and prayers.



Physical blindness is a great tragedy. Greater still is spiritual blindness. God must be number one in your life. Don't let money or anything else replace God.

Jesus, please be Number One in my life

Chapter 6 (25 - 34)

Jesus said to the crowds that life is about more than food and clothing. Pointing to some birds flying around, Jesus said: Look at the birds. They don't sow or reap, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. You are more precious than the birds.

Pointing to flowers in the field Jesus said: They are more beautiful than King Solomon's clothing. If God cares so much about the life of flowers, won't he care even more about human life?

So, don't spend your day worrying about what you are going to eat and drink and wear. Put God first in your life, God and a right way of life, then God will look after your physical needs

Don't waste your energy worrying about tomorrow. Live life one day at a time

Heavenly Father, thank you for caring for the birds and flowers....and me!

Chapter 7 (1 – 27)

Jesus said to the people: Do not judge other people, and God will not judge you. It's so easy to be aware of other people's faults, yet be blind to your own faults

Persevere in prayer. Ask and you will receive. Search and you will find. Knock and the door will open. You like to give good things to your children. God likes to give good things to you

Treat other people the way you would like them to treat you.

Beware of bad leaders. A sure way to know if someone is good or bad: are their actions good or bad?

If you put my words into practice, you are like someone who builds their house on rock. If you ignore my words, you are like someone who builds their house on sand.

Jesus, please help me put your words into practice

Chapter 8 (1 - 3)

In Jesus' time, it was illegal for anyone to touch a leper, and it was illegal for lepers to go near other people. But one day a leper broke the law. He



came right up to Jesus and said "If you want to, you can heal me". Jesus also broke the law. He stretched out his hand, touched the leper, and said "Of course I want to heal you. Be healed!"

The man was healed immediately

Jesus, I didn't know you were a law-breaker. I guess this means that sometimes, in special cases, it's ok to break the law

Chapter 8 (5 - 13)

In the town of Capernaum, a Roman army captain said to Jesus "Sir, my servant is paralyzed and in great pain." Jesus replied "I will go and heal him"

But the captain said "Sir, I am not worthy that you should enter my house. Just say the word and my servant will be healed. For I understand orders. I give an order, and people act. I know that you also just need to give an order, and my servant will be healed".

Jesus said "This foreigner's faith is greater than that of the local people. And I tell you that in the future, people from all parts of the world will be in the kingdom of heaven"

Then Jesus said to the captain
"Go home. Your request made in faith is granted".
And the servant was healed at that moment
**Jesus, please give more people, from all parts
of the world, the faith of the captain**

Chapter 8 (14 -17)

Jesus went to the home of
Peter the "fisher of men".
Peter's mother-in-law was
sick in bed with a fever.
Jesus touched her hand, and
the fever left her. She got
up and began to serve her
visitor. That evening,
many sick people were
brought to Peter's home.
Jesus healed them all



Jesus, please heal (..names..) who are sick

Chapter 8 (23 - 27)

Jesus and his "fisher of men" friends got into a
boat to cross the lake near Capernaum. Jesus was
so tired that he went to sleep in the boat. Then a
sudden storm caused big waves to lash the boat.
Jesus' friends woke him up and said "Save us,
Lord, we are sinking". Jesus stood up, and
ordered the wind and sea to be calm. Straight
away the wind and sea were calm. Jesus' friends
said to each other "Who is this? Even the wind
and sea obey him"

**Jesus, please calm the storms in my life,
in my family, in our world**

Chapter 9 (1 - 8)

Some people carried a paralyzed man through a crowd to Jesus. The man was on a bed. Jesus



knew that these people believed he could help them, so he said to the paralyzed man

"Courage, your sins are forgiven". Religious leaders in the crowd were thinking to themselves that Jesus was wrong to say he

could forgive sins. So Jesus said to the leaders: Which is easier: to say 'Your sins are forgiven', or to say 'Get up and walk'?

Then to prove that he had authority to forgive sins, he said to the paralyzed man "Get up, pick up your bed and go home". The man got up and went home. The crowd praised God for what they had seen.

Jesus, please give me more faith in your power to forgive, your power to heal

Chapter 9 (9 - 13)

One day when Jesus was walking past a customs house, he said to a tax collector named Matthew "Follow me". Matthew got up and followed Jesus

Matthew invited Jesus and Jesus' friends to a dinner in his house. Some tax collectors and "bad" people sat at Jesus' table. Religious leaders saw this and complained to Jesus' friends

"Why does your master eat with tax collectors and bad people?" Jesus' answer was "It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick.



Go and think about the Bible words 'What I want is mercy, not sacrifice' I have a special concern for rejects and down-and-outs"

Jesus, please help religious leaders in today's world to care more about people who are rejected by society

Chapter 9 (14 - 17)

One day John the Baptist's friends asked Jesus "How come we and the religious leaders fast, but your friends don't?"

Jesus replied "Fasting is a good thing, and after I have left this world, my friends will fast. But remember that multiplying external prayers and fasts without a change of heart is useless

Out of date religious structures need a drastic overhaul, not just external plastic surgery"

Jesus, please help me practise a bit of fasting, especially each Friday, the day you died

Chapter 9 (18 - 26)

A prayer hall official came to Jesus and said "My daughter has just died. Please come and lay your hand on her and she will come back to life". As Jesus and his friends were following the official to his home, a woman who had a hemorrhage for 12 years came up behind Jesus and touched his clothing. The woman had said to herself "If I can even touch his clothing, I will be healed". Jesus knew what she was doing, and said to her. "My daughter, your faith has healed you". Instantly she was healed



When Jesus arrived at the official's house, he saw a crowd of people crying loudly. Jesus said to them "Get out of the house. The little girl is asleep, not dead". The crowd laughed at Jesus. After the crowd had gone outside, Jesus went inside. He took the little girl by the hand, and she stood up. News of what had happened spread all round the district.

Jesus, please increase my faith in your power to heal the sick and raise the dead

Chapter 9 (27 - 31)

As Jesus walked along, two men who had become blind, followed after him calling out "Son of David, please help us".

Jesus asked them "Do you believe I can help you?"

They said

"Yes we do".

Then Jesus touched their eyes

and said "Your request made in faith is granted". Immediately they were able to see again. They told everyone they met what Jesus had done for them



Jesus, heal my friend (..name..) who is blind

Chapter 9 (35 - 37)

Jesus went to many towns and villages. In the local prayer halls he taught people the Good News of God's kingdom. He healed all sorts of diseases and sicknesses. He felt sorry for the ordinary people because they were like sheep without a shepherd - leaderless, exploited, and feeling hopeless. He said to his friends:

"So many people don't have good leaders. Pray to God to send good leaders"

**Jesus, many countries have bad leaders.
Please help every country to have good leaders**

Chapter 10 (1 - 16)

Many men followed Jesus as "fishers of men", as "disciples". Jesus chose 12 of them and called them "apostles":

Peter and his brother Andrew; Zebedees' sons James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus; Thaddaeus, Simon and Judas

Jesus sent them to prepare his way by visiting the places he would go. He gave them power to cast out evil spirits and to heal all kinds of sicknesses

He said to them: Proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is near. Cure the sick. Raise the dead. Cleanse lepers. Cast out devils

Jesus, please help all Christians to be apostles and fishers of people

Chapter 10 (17 - 42)

Jesus said to his apostles "Because you follow me and speak my message, therefore you will be arrested and put in prison. But don't worry about what to say for your defence. What to say will be given you by the Holy Spirit. Boldly proclaim my message and do not be afraid of persecution. Take up your cross and follow me. Anyone who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me".

Jesus, please give me more courage

Chapter 11 (1 - 19)

John the Baptist sent some of his friends to ask Jesus "Are you the promised Anointed One?"

Jesus replied "Tell John what you hear and see: blind people see, lame people walk, lepers are healed".

Jesus also said to the people around him how neither John nor himself could please the religious leaders.

"For John the Baptist always fasted and never drank wine, and people said he was possessed. I eat well and I drink wine, and people call me a glutton and a drunkard"

Jesus, please help me be someone who is easy to live with, someone who is not hard to please

Chapter 11 (25 - 30)

One day Jesus prayed: "Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I am joyfully amazed at the way simple people understand and accept what I'm saying, while proud and clever people miss the plot"

And he said to the ordinary people: "Come to me, all you who are treated unfairly by unjust religious laws. I will give you peace and justice. Learn from me, and you will know peace, for I am gentle and humble of heart"

Jesus, please help people who are suffering from unjust religious laws

Chapter 12 (1 - 8)

One Sabbath day Jesus and his disciples were walking through a cornfield. The disciples were hungry. They picked some ears of corn and ate them. Picking corn on the Sabbath was regarded as unlawful by the Pharisees. So the Pharisees said to Jesus "Your disciples are breaking the Sabbath law".

Jesus replied "Don't you remember what David and his followers once did when they were hungry? They ate the Temple bread which only the priests were allowed to eat. Go and learn the meaning of these words 'What I want is mercy, not superficial external offerings'. I am master of the Sabbath"

Jesus, Master of the Sabbath, please help me understand that love is more important than law

Chapter 12 (9 - 14)

On another Sabbath, Jesus visited a prayer hall. A man with a withered hand was in the hall.

Some religious leaders asked Jesus, to trap him, "Is it lawful to heal a man on the Sabbath day?" (The leaders taught that no "work" could be done on the Sabbath).

Jesus replied: "If one of your sheep fell down a hole on the Sabbath, wouldn't you lift it out?"

A man is more important than a sheep.

Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath"

Then Jesus said to the man with the withered hand "Stretch out your hand". He stretched it out. It was healed. The religious leaders left the prayer hall and began plotting how to get rid of Jesus.

Jesus, please stop bad religious leaders from misleading people



Chapter 12 (46 - 50)

One day when Jesus was speaking to a crowd of people inside a house, his mother and brothers arrived at the house. From outside the house they sent a message to say they would like to speak with him.

When Jesus heard they were there, he said "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" Then holding out his hand towards his disciples he said "Here are my mother and brothers. Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven, that person is my brother and sister and mother"

Brother Jesus, please help me do the will of your Father in heaven

Chapter 13 (1 - 23)



One day Jesus told the people this story: A farmer was planting seeds in his field. Some seeds fell on the path. Birds ate them. Some seeds fell on rocky ground. They became sickly plants, without roots, and died. Some seeds fell among thorns. When they became plants, they were choked by the thorns. Some seeds fell on good soil, and produced a rich harvest.

People who hear God's word without good will are like the seeds on the path. They are easy prey for Satan. People who hear God's word only superficially are like the seeds on rocky ground. As soon as difficulties come, such people easily give up.

People who hear God's word with one ear, but with the other listen to the call of greed and pleasure, are like the seeds among thorns. Greed kills the word.

People who hear God's word with good will and put it into practice, are like the good seeds which produced a rich harvest

Jesus, please help me be good seed!

Chapter 13 (24 - 30; 36 - 43)

Jesus told the people another story:

The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. An enemy came and sowed weeds in the same field. When the good seed sprouted, so did the weeds.



The man's servants asked if they should get rid of the weeds. "No", said the man, "you might damage the good seed if you do that. Let them both grow till harvest time. Then burn the weeds"

Then Jesus explained his story: "I am the sower. The field is the world. The good seed stands for people of good will. The weeds stand for people of bad will. The enemy is Satan. At the end of the world, I will send my angels to sort out the good and the bad people. Bad people will go to hell. Good people will go to heaven"

Jesus, please protect good people from bad people

Chapter 13 (31 - 33; 44; 47 - 50)

Jesus said to the people:

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. It's the smallest of all seeds. But it becomes a big bush, then a big tree that the birds live in

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure in a field. Someone finds it, then sells all they have to buy the field.

The kingdom of heaven is like a fishing net that catches all sorts of fish. Good fish are put in a basket. Useless fish are thrown away. So at the end of time, bad people will be thrown into hell.

Jesus may your kingdom come, your will be done



Chapter 13 (53 - 58)

One day Jesus went to Nazareth, his home town. In the prayer hall there, he taught the local people. But the local people would not accept him. They said "Where did he get such wisdom and miraculous power? He is just a carpenter's son. His mother is that woman called Mary. His brothers

are James, Joseph, Simon and Jude. His sisters are here, too. He's nobody special".

Jesus said to them "A prophet is despised only in his own country and his own house". And he did not work many miracles there because of their lack of faith

**Jesus, please give me more faith in you
... and don't let me reject people**

Chapter 14 (1 - 12)

Not long after Jesus began traveling and teaching, King Herod arrested John the Baptist and put him in prison. This was because John had told Herod he was breaking the Law by living with Herodias, his brother's wife. During a birthday party for Herod, the daughter of Herodias danced.



Her dancing so pleased Herod that he said he would give her anything she wanted.

Herodias told her to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a dish. Herod then

had John beheaded. John's disciples came and buried the body. **Jesus, please give the world good leaders, and protect people from bad leaders like Herod**

Chapter 14 (13 - 21)

Once after Jesus had been healing and teaching many people all afternoon, his disciples said to him "It's getting late and the people need to go and eat". Jesus replied "They don't need to go. *You* feed them". The disciples replied "We have only 5 loaves and 2 fish". Jesus got the people to sit on the grass. There were about 20,000 of them. Then he blessed the loaves and fish. He handed the loaves and fish to his disciples. His disciples gave them to the crowd. Everyone had plenty to eat. They even had 12 baskets of leftovers.

Jesus, please make leaders do more to help the starving people of the world

Chapter 14 (22 - 33)

After feeding the crowd with 5 loaves and 2 fish, Jesus told his disciples to go by boat across the nearby lake. Jesus stayed to send the crowds away. Then he went up into the hills to pray. When darkness came, the boat was far from land, but it was battling large waves caused by a strong headwind. Jesus then walked on the water towards the boat. He called out to his disciples "Courage. It is I. Don't be afraid".

Peter answered "Lord, if it is you, tell me to walk on the water to you." Jesus said "Come". Peter then started walking on the water, but he



became afraid and began to sink. "Lord, save me" he called out. Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to keep walking on the water.

"Man of little faith, why did you doubt?" asked Jesus. As they got into the boat, the wind stopped. The men in the boat bowed to Jesus and said "You really are the Son of God"

Jesus, please help me not to lose faith in you

Chapter 14 (34 - 36)

When Jesus got out of the boat on the other side of the lake, people recognized him and news of his presence spread quickly.

From all around that area, sick people were brought to Jesus. The sick people just wanted to touch Jesus' clothing.

All those who touched his clothing were healed.

Jesus, please heal my sick friends (..names..) by letting them, through prayer, touch your clothing

Chapter 15 (1 - 20)

Some religious leaders asked Jesus "Why do your disciples ignore many external practices of our religion?"

Jesus answered, with the words of the prophet Isaiah: "This people honors me with external lip-service, while their hearts are far from me."

Jesus also said "It's not certain foods or lack of washing that makes a person unclean. It's evil in the heart that makes a person unclean.

Evil intentions like murder, adultery, fornication, theft, perjury, slander. These are the things that make a person unclean"

Jesus, please clean my heart

Chapter 15 (21 - 28)

Jesus went to the coastal district near Tyre and Sidon. A foreign woman followed him and shouted "Sir, Son of David, have pity on me. My daughter is tormented by an evil spirit"

At first Jesus did not answer her, so his disciples said to him "Help her, because she keeps shouting after us."

Jesus replied "I was sent only to the people of Israel."

The foreign woman by now was kneeling at Jesus' feet. "Lord, help me" she pleaded

Jesus said to her "Woman, you have great faith. Your wish is granted". At that very moment, her daughter was healed

Jesus, please give sick people great faith in you

Chapter 15 (29 -31)

Jesus went up into the hills near the Lake of Galilee. Large crowds came to him bringing the lame, the crippled, the blind, the dumb and many others. These they put down at Jesus' feet. Jesus healed them all

The crowds praised the God of Israel when they saw the dumb speaking, cripples whole again, the lame walking and the blind able to see

**Jesus, please give sick people
more faith in your healing love**

Chapter 16 (13 - 20)

One day Jesus asked his disciples

"Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

The disciples replied "Some people say you are one of the famous prophets."

Jesus then asked them "And what about you.

Who do *you* say I am?" Peter answered

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus then said to Peter "Blessed are you, for my Father in heaven has revealed this to you.

So I now say to you: you are Peter ('the rock') and on this rock I will build my church.

I will give you the keys of the kingdom"

Jesus, Son of God, please help the church to continue your work on earth

Chapter 16 (21 - 28)



Jesus now began explaining to his disciples how he must go to Jerusalem to suffer, die and rise from the dead.

He also said "If you want to be my disciple, you must deny yourself, take up your own cross, and follow me. Selfishness will ruin your life.

Self-sacrificing will bless your life.

What use is it to have everything in this world yet miss out on Heaven?"

Jesus, please help me find my life by losing it in service of others

Chapter 17 (1 - 8)

One day Jesus took his disciples Peter, James and John up a high mountain. On the mountain Jesus' whole appearance changed. His face shone like the sun. His clothes were as white as snow. The prophets Moses and Elijah appeared and spoke with him. Peter said to Jesus "Lord, how good it is for us to be here!" Then a bright cloud covered them with its shadow. From the cloud came a voice: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." The disciples bowed to the ground. When they got up, they saw only Jesus in his normal appearance.

**Jesus, Beloved Son of God,
how good it is to spend time with you in prayer**

Chapter 17 (14 - 20)

A man went down on his knees and pleaded with Jesus: "Lord, please help my son. He is crazy and does crazy things like falling into fire and into water. I asked your disciples to heal him, but they were not able to."



There was an evil spirit oppressing the boy, so Jesus ordered the spirit to leave the boy. The boy was healed immediately.

Jesus' disciples asked him "Why were we unable to expel that spirit?" Jesus answered "Because your faith is not strong enough"

Jesus, please increase my faith, so that my prayers can be of more help to other people

Chapter 18 (1 - 10)

One day Jesus heard his disciples arguing about which one of them was the most important. Jesus got a little child to sit in front of them, and said "If you want to be great in God's eyes, become child-like. In fact, unless you become child-like, you won't get to heaven. And make sure you never cause harm to children like this one. Remember, the protecting angels of children are in the presence of my Father in heaven"

Jesus, please help me to be more child-like, and please don't let me ever cause harm to children

Chapter 18 (21 - 35)

Peter asked Jesus "How many times must I forgive someone? 7 times?"

Jesus answered "Not 7, but 77 times.

For the kingdom of heaven is like a king who cancelled the huge debt of one of his servants. But that same servant refused to cancel the tiny debt of one of his fellow servants. So the king said to the servant: 'When you appealed to me, I had pity on you and cancelled your big debt. But you refused to have pity on your fellow servant who asked you for mercy. Therefore you must now go to prison until your big debt is paid.' If you refuse to forgive other people, you are making yourself ineligible for God's forgiveness"

Jesus, please help me to forgive other people, just as you forgive me....many times each day

Chapter 19 (1 - 9)

One day some religious leaders put Jesus to the test by asking him "Is it against the Law of Moses for a man to divorce his wife?" Jesus replied "God created male and female, for the two to become united as one body. What God has united, no one should separate". The leaders then asked "But why did Moses allow divorce?"

Jesus replied "Moses allowed divorce because people were so hard of heart. But divorce was not God's plan. So I say to you, anyone who walks out on their partner and marries someone else, is guilty of adultery"

Jesus, please help married people stay together

Chapter 19 (13- 15)

Some people brought their little children to Jesus. They hoped Jesus would put his hands on the children and bless them. Jesus' disciples told the people to go away and not bother Jesus. But Jesus' said "Don't prevent the little children from coming to me". Then he put his hands on them and blessed them



Jesus, please help all children to know you from their earliest days. Please don't let parents prevent children from coming to you

Chapter 19 (16 - 26)

A young man asked Jesus "Master, what do I have to do to get to Heaven?"

Jesus replied "Keep the commandments: do not kill; do not commit adultery; honor your father and mother; care for others as much as you care about yourself."

The young man said "I have kept all these commandments. What else do I need to do?"

Jesus said "If you want to do something really special with your life, go and sell all your possessions, give the money to the poor, then come and follow me as one of my disciples." When the young man heard these words, he went away sad, because he was very rich

Jesus then said to his disciples

"It is hard for a rich person to get to Heaven"

Jesus, don't let riches endanger my eternal life

Chapter 19 (27 - 29)

On behalf of all the disciples, Peter asked Jesus "What about us? We have left everything to follow you."

Jesus replied "You will be leaders in the church on earth. Also, anyone who has left home, family or country for the sake of my name, will receive a 100-fold blessing in this life, and will also receive eternal life in Heaven"

Jesus, please bless all Gospel workers

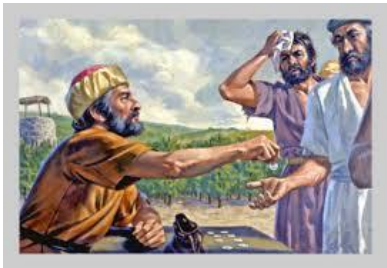
Chapter 20 (1 - 16)

Jesus said to his disciples: The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them the normal daily wage.

Then about 9am he went again to the market place. He saw more men without a job. He got them also to go to his vineyard. He promised to pay them a fair wage. About noon and again about 3pm he once more went to the market place and employed two more groups of men.

About 5pm he went one final time and employed one last group of men.

At sunset when the men came to be paid, the owner paid everyone a normal day's wage.



This made the dawn group unhappy. They grumbled and said "We have done a full day's work in the heat. Yet we got the same as those who did only one hour's work. This is not fair! "

The owner replied "I am paying you what we agreed to. Why do you begrudge my generosity?"

Jesus, please help me not to be jealous of your gifts to others

Chapter 20 (20 -28)

The brothers James and John were two of Jesus' disciples.

One day their mother said to Jesus "When you become king, allow my sons to sit at your right and left".

Jesus said to James and John "Only my Father in heaven can allocate seats on my right and left"

The 10 other disciples were angry at James and John for seeking honor. So Jesus said to them all "In most places, people in power like to dominate and control others. But this is not to be your way of exercising authority

You must exercise authority by serving others, not dominating them, just as I came not to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for the world"

Jesus, please help me want to help and serve other people, not dominate and control them

Chapter 20 (29 - 34)

As Jesus was leaving Jericho on his way to Jerusalem, many people followed him along the road.

Sitting by the road were two men who had become blind. When they heard that Jesus was going past, they called out "Son of David, have pity on us"

Some people tried to stop them from calling out, but they shouted even more loudly
"Son of David, have pity on us".
Jesus stopped and said to them
"What do you want me to do for you?"
They replied "Lord, let us see again".
Jesus felt sorry for them. He touched their eyes and straight away their sight returned

Jesus, please heal my blind friend (..name..)

Chapter 21 (1 - 11)

Jesus sat on a donkey colt for the trip down the hill from the Mount of Olives to the city of Jerusalem. This was as a prophet had predicted:
"Look, your king is coming, humbly riding a peaceful donkey"

Big crowds accompanied Jesus down the hill. People spread their clothes on the road as a sign of honor. People cut branches from the trees and waved them singing:

"Hosanna to the Son of David.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!"



People in the city asked "Who is he?"
The crowd answered "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee"

**Jesus, may you be warmly welcomed
by every place and every person in the world**

Chapter 21 (12 -16)

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, he went to the Temple. In the Temple there were money changers, and people selling pigeons. Jesus tipped over their tables and drove them out of the Temple

He said to them
"My house is a house of prayer, but you have turned it into a place for robbery"



Blind and lame people came to Jesus in the Temple. He healed them all. Then he went out of the city to the village of Bethany and spent the night there

Jesus, please protect all places of prayer from corruption

Chapter 22 (34 - 40)

In Jerusalem a religious leader asked Jesus "Which is the most important commandment?"

Jesus replied "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart. And you must care as much about others as you care about yourself. These are the two most important commandments. All other commandments depend on these two"

Jesus, please help me love you with all my heart and care for others as much as I care about myself

Chapter 23 (1 - 36)

Jesus told the people to respect their religious leaders, but he condemned the religious leaders

- for not practising what they preached
- for doing things just to attract attention
- for craving front seats and places of honor
- for being concerned only with externals.

Jesus called the religious leaders "hypocrites", "blind guides", "tombs that look good on the outside, but are full of dead bones"

Jesus, help religious leaders be good people

Chapter 24 (9 - 44)

Jesus spoke to his disciples about the future:
"On account of my name you will be hated, tortured and killed. But the Good News of the kingdom will spread to every nation before the end of the world.

At the end of the world, the sun and moon will stop shining. Stars will fall from the sky. Then my sign will appear in the sky, and all peoples will see me coming on the clouds with power and glory

I will send my angels with a loud trumpet to gather good people from all parts of the earth. Therefore you should live a good life, and you will have nothing to fear on your last day"

Jesus, please help me be a good person

Chapter 25 (31 - 46)

Jesus said to his disciples:

When I come in glory at the end of the world,
all peoples of all times will be gathered in front of
me

I will separate them,
like a shepherd separates sheep from goats

I will place the sheep on my right,
the goats on my left

I will say to those on my right
"Come and enter my kingdom.
For I was hungry, and you gave me food.
I was thirsty, and you gave me drink.
I was a stranger, and you made me welcome.
I was naked, and you clothed me.
I was sick, and you visited me.
I was in prison, and you came to see me"

Then those good people on my right will say

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you?
When did we see you thirsty and give you a drink?
When did we see you a stranger and welcome you,
naked and clothe you, sick or in prison and visit
you?"

I will answer
"Each time you helped and cared for a poor
person, you helped and cared for me"

Then I will say to those on my left "Go away from me and join Satan and his angels in hell.

For I was hungry and you never gave me food. I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink. I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me"

Those on my left will then ask "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?"

I will answer "Each time you refused to help and care for a poor person, you refused to help and care for me".



Those on the left will then go to eternal punishment. Those on the right will go to eternal life

Jesus, please help me do more for poor people. Make me understand that when I help a poor person, I help you

Chapter 26 (1 - 16)

A few days before the Passover festival, the religious leaders kept looking for a way to arrest Jesus and have him put to death. Jesus knew what was happening. He told his disciples "In a few days I will be crucified". During these days Jesus had a meal at the home of Simon the leper. At the meal, a woman put expensive burial oil on Jesus' head. The woman understood that Jesus was soon to die. One of Jesus' 12 apostles, Judas Iscariot, went to the religious leaders and offered to help them arrest Jesus at a convenient time. The leaders paid Judas 30 pieces of silver. Judas looked for an opportunity to arrange the arrest.

Jesus, please forgive me for the times when I have not been faithful to you

Chapter 26 (17 - 29)

On Passover Eve, Jesus ate a last meal with his apostles. While they were eating, Jesus told them he knew he would be betrayed by one of them. He told Judas he knew he was the betrayer

Then Jesus took some bread, blessed it and gave it to his apostles saying "Take this and eat it. This is my body". Then he took a cup of wine, blessed it and gave it to them saying "Take this and drink it. This is my blood".

Jesus, please help me understand how bread and wine become your body and blood when Christians celebrate the Eucharist



Chapter 26 (30 - 46)

After their last meal, Jesus said to his apostles "Tonight all of you will desert me". Peter said "I will never desert you". Jesus replied "Tonight before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times".

They came to a place with olive trees called Gethsemane. Jesus took Peter, James and John to a part of that area and asked them to pray with him.

Jesus was overcome with sadness and fear. He said to them "Sadness is filling my heart, as if my heart is dying. Please support me as I pray". Then he fell on his face and prayed for about an hour: "Father, don't let this suffering continue. But your will be done".

He stood up and found that the apostles were asleep. He said to them "Couldn't you stay awake one hour to support me?"

Three times he prayed the same way. Three times the apostles went to sleep. Then he said "Get ready. The one who is betraying me is coming"



Jesus, please help me give more time to prayer

Chapter 26 (47 - 56)

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas arrived. Judas had with him a large crowd of men with swords and clubs, sent by the religious leaders. Judas had told these men "The one I kiss is the man. Take him". So Judas went up to Jesus, said "Greetings, Master" and kissed him.

The men then seized Jesus. Jesus said to them "Am I a robber that you needed to capture me with swords and clubs? Day after day I was openly teaching in the Temple". All of Jesus' apostles then deserted him and ran away.

Jesus, when I feel I am being treated unfairly by other people, may your arrest give me strength

Chapter 26 (57 - 68)

The men who arrested Jesus took him to a meeting of the religious leaders. The leaders wanted to condemn Jesus to death, even if they had to use false evidence. Jesus remained silent before their accusations.

Then the main leader challenged Jesus: "Are you the Saviour, the Son of God?" Jesus replied "Yes". The main leader then called out "We have heard him claim to be of Divine origin. This is blasphemy". The rest of



the leaders shouted "He should die". Then they spat in Jesus' face and hit him with their fists.

Jesus, thank you for submitting yourself to insult and spittle for the salvation of the world

Chapter 26 (69 - 75)

Peter went to the place where the religious leaders had Jesus on trial. A young woman in the courtyard of the place said to him "You are a friend of the Galilean"

In front of the woman and people around her Peter said "I don't know what you're talking about"

Peter went to the gateway of the place, where another woman said to people around her "This man is a friend of the Galilean". Peter replied strongly "I don't know the man"



Not long after this a group of people said to Peter "You are his friend. We can tell by your Galilean accent"

Then Peter even more strongly replied "I do not know the man"

At that very moment, a rooster crowed

Peter remembered Jesus' words "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times". Peter went outside and wept loudly

**Jesus, please help me not to deny you.
Give me courage to say "I am a Christian"**

Chapter 27 (1 - 26)

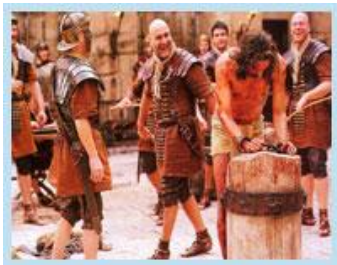
Early in the morning, the religious leaders had Jesus bound with ropes. They then took him to Pilate, the Roman governor. The leaders accused Jesus of many crimes. To the governor's amazement, Jesus remained silent. The leaders persuaded the crowd to demand the execution of Jesus. They called out to Pilate "Crucify him". Pilate asked "Why? What has he done wrong?" The crowd shouted all the louder "Crucify him. Crucify him". Pilate then washed his hands in front of the crowd and said "I am innocent of this man's blood". The crowd shouted "His blood be on us and on our children". Pilate then ordered Jesus to be scourged and crucified.

Jesus, help people who are condemned to death

Chapter 27 (27 - 31)

After the Roman soldiers scourged Jesus, they made fun of him. They put a red cloak on him. They made a crown out of thorns. They put a reed in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him saying "Hail, king of the Jews". They spat on him. They took the reed and hit him with it. When they had finished making fun of him, they dressed him

in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.



Jesus, please don't let me hurt other people by making fun of them

Chapter 27 (32 - 44)

As Jesus was taken to the place of crucifixion, a man name Simon, from Cyrene, was made to carry Jesus' cross. Jesus was then nailed to the cross and hung on the cross. Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Above Jesus' head was a sign with the charge against him: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews". People passing by that place made fun of Jesus. So did the religious leaders. They mocked and taunted him.

Jesus on the Cross, thank you for suffering so much for the salvation of the world

Chapter 27 (45 - 54)

Jesus was put on the cross about 9am. From about noon until 3pm there was darkness over all the land. About 3pm Jesus cried out the words of Psalm 22: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" A little while later he again cried out in a loud voice. Then he died.

At that moment the holy curtain in the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and there was a violent earthquake. The Roman soldiers were terrified. Their leader called out "Truly this was a son of God".



Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross for the salvation of the world

Chapter 27 (57 - 66)

Joseph from Arimathaea was a rich man who had become a disciple of Jesus. After Jesus died on Friday, he asked Governor Pilate for Jesus' body.



Joseph wrapped the body in a clean burial cloth and put it in his own new tomb in a rock cave. He then put a large stone at the cave's entrance

The next day, Saturday, the religious leaders went to Pilate and said "This imposter said he would rise from the dead after 3 days. Therefore you should secure the tomb in case his disciples steal the body and say he has risen from the dead". Pilate gave them a guard, and told them to secure the tomb. The guards took up their position at the tomb, and seals were put on the entrance stone.

**Jesus in the tomb,
please give eternal life to all who have died**

Chapter 28 (1 - 15)

Jesus died on Friday afternoon. Early on Sunday morning, two women went to Jesus' tomb. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake, and an angel from heaven came and rolled away the big stone at the tomb's entrance. The guards at the tomb were terrified of the angel. The angel said to the women "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen from the dead. Go and tell his disciples he has risen from the dead and will see them in Galilee"



The women were filled with joy and ran to tell this news to the disciples.

As they left the tomb area, Jesus himself appeared to them and said "Do not be afraid. Go and tell the disciples

they must go to Galilee. They will see me there"

Lord Jesus by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world

Chapter 28 (16 - 20)

The 11 apostles went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him in worship. Jesus said to them "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to understand and live according to my words. And know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time"

Jesus, "God-with-us", please help us live our lives according to your teachingand thank you, Matthew, for this beautiful Gospel Report