

THE AMAZING KINGDOM – MARK 1-8

(Today's New International Version, arranged for four readers)

(a) section for group study (b) section to read (c) section to skim (but not skip!)

1

JESUS ARRIVES ON THE SCENE (1:1-20)

1:1-8 John the Baptist prepares the way (b)

- ALL ¹The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah,
A ²as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:
B “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way,” —
C ³“a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”
D ⁴And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
C ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him.
ALL Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.
A ⁶John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his message:
D “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.
B ⁸I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

1:9-13 The baptism and testing of Jesus (b)

- A ⁹At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
B ¹⁰Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.
¹¹And a voice came from heaven:
ALL “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”
D ¹²At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan.
C He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

1:14-20 Jesus announces the good news and calls his first disciples (a)

- A ¹⁴After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.
C ¹⁵“The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near. ALL Repent and believe the good news!”
B ¹⁶As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.
D ¹⁷“Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people.”
A ¹⁸At once they left their nets and followed him.
C ¹⁹When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets.
B ²⁰Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

1:21-34 Jesus drives out an evil spirit and heals many (b)

- A ²¹They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach.
- ALL ²²The people were amazed at his teaching,
B because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.
- C ²³Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out,
D ²⁴‘What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!’
- A ²⁵‘Be quiet!’ said Jesus sternly. ‘Come out of him!’
- C ²⁶The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.
- ALL ²⁷The people were all so amazed that they asked each other,
D ‘What is this?’
C ‘A new teaching—and with authority!’
B ‘He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.’
- A ²⁸News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.
- C ²⁹As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew.
D ³⁰Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her.
- C ³¹So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.
B ³²That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed.
- ALL ³³The whole town gathered at the door,
A ³⁴and Jesus healed many who had various diseases.
D He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

1:35-39 Jesus prays in a solitary place (b)

- A ³⁵Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.
- B ³⁶Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷and when they found him, they exclaimed:
- ALL ‘Everyone is looking for you!’
- D ³⁸Jesus replied, ‘Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.’
- C ³⁹So he travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

1:40-45 Jesus heals a man with leprosy (c)

⁴⁰A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, ‘If you are willing, you can make me clean.’ ⁴¹Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. ‘I am willing,’ he said. ‘Be clean!’ ⁴²Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. ⁴³Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: ⁴⁴‘See that you don’t tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.’ ⁴⁵Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

2:1-12 Jesus forgives and heals a paralysed man (b)

- A ¹A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home.
- B ²They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.
- C ³Some men came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.
- D ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralysed man,
A ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’

- B ⁶Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves,
- C ⁷‘Why does this fellow talk like that?’
- B ‘He’s blaspheming!’
- D ‘Who can forgive sins but God alone?’
- A ⁸Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them,
- C ‘Why are you thinking these things? ⁹Which is easier: to say to this paralysed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk?’
- A ¹⁰But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.’
- B So he said to the man,
- D ¹¹‘I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.’
- A ¹²He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all.
- B This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying,
- ALL ‘We have never seen anything like this!’

2:13-17 Jesus calls Levi and eats with sinners (a)

- C ¹³Once again Jesus went out beside the lake.
- ALL A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them.
- D ¹⁴As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector’s booth.
- A ‘Follow me,’ Jesus told him,
- B and Levi got up and followed him.
- D ¹⁵While Jesus was having dinner at Levi’s house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples,
- ALL for there were many who followed him.
- C ¹⁶When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples:
- AB ‘Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?’
- C ¹⁷On hearing this, Jesus said to them,
- D ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.’

JESUS SELECTS TWELVE FOR TRAINING (2:18-3:19)

2:18-22 Jesus is questioned about fasting (c)

¹⁸Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?" ¹⁹Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. ²⁰But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast. ²¹"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If they do, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. ²²And people do not pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins."

2:23-28 Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath (c)

²³One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. ²⁴The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" ²⁵He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? ²⁶In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." ²⁷Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath. ²⁸So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

3:1-6 Jesus heals on the Sabbath (b)

- A ¹Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shrivelled hand was there.
- B ²Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath.
- C ³Jesus said to the man with the shrivelled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone."
- D ⁴Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?"
- B But they remained silent.
- C ⁵He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand."
- A He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.

- B ⁶Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

3:7-19 Crowds follow Jesus, and the Twelve are appointed (a)

- C ⁷Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed.
- ALL ⁸When they heard all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon.
- D ⁹Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him.
- B ¹⁰For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him.
- C ¹¹Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God."
- A ¹²But he gave them strict orders not to tell others about him.
- B ¹³Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him.
- C ¹⁴He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵and to have authority to drive out demons.
- D ¹⁶These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter),
- A ¹⁷James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means "sons of thunder"),
- C ¹⁸Andrew,
- B Philip,
- A Bartholomew,
- D Matthew,
- C Thomas,
- B James son of Alphaeus,
- A Thaddaeus,
- D Simon the Zealot
- ALL ¹⁹and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

JESUS USES PARABLES TO TEACH ABOUT THE KINGDOM (3:20-4:20)

3:20-35 **Jesus is accused by his family (b) and by teachers of the law (c)**

- A ²⁰Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat.
- B ²¹When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said,
- ALL “He is out of his mind.”

²²And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.”

²³So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. ²⁷In fact, no one can enter a strong man’s house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man’s house. ²⁸Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven all their sins and all the blasphemies they utter. ²⁹But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, but is guilty of an eternal sin.” ³⁰He said this because they were saying, “He has an evil spirit.”

- C ³¹Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him.
- D ³²A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him,
- ALL “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.”
- A ³³“Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked.
- B ³⁴Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said,
- C “Here are my mother and my brothers!
- ALL ³⁵Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

4:1-20 **The parable of the sower (a and b)**

- A ¹Again Jesus began to teach by the lake.
- B The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake,
- ALL while all the people were along the shore at the water’s edge.
- C ²He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said:
- D ³“Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed.

- A ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.
- B ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.
- C ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain.
- D ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.”
- ALL ⁹Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”
- C ¹⁰When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables.
- A ¹¹He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you.
- D But to those on the outside everything is said in parables
- B ¹²so that, “ ‘they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding;
- A otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!’ ”
- C ¹³Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable?
- ALL How then will you understand any parable?
- D ¹⁴The farmer sows the word.
- A ¹⁵Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.
- B ¹⁶Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.
- C ¹⁸Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.
- D ²⁰Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—
- ALL some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

JESUS USES MORE PARABLES AND CALMS A STORM

(4:21-41)

4:21-25 A lamp on its stand (b)

- A ²¹He said to them, “Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don’t you put it on its stand?”
- B ²²For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open.
- ALL ²³If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear.”
- C ²⁴“Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more.
- D ²⁵Those who have will be given more; as for those who do not have, even what they have will be taken from them.”

4:26-34 Parables of the growing seed and the mustard seed (b)

- B ²⁶He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like.
- ALL A man scatters seed on the ground.
- C ²⁷Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.
- A ²⁸All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.
- D ²⁹As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”
- C ³⁰Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it?
- B ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth.
- D ³²Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”
- A ³³With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them,
- ALL as much as they could understand.
- C ³⁴He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples,
- ALL he explained everything.

4:35-41 Jesus calms the storm (a)

- A ³⁵That day when evening came, he said to his disciples,
- B “Let us go over to the other side.”
- C ³⁶Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat.
- D There were also other boats with him.
- B ³⁷A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.
- C ³⁸Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion.
- A The disciples woke him and said to him,
- ALL “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”
- D ³⁹He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves,
- B “Quiet! Be still!”
- A Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.
- C ⁴⁰He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”
- D ⁴¹They were terrified and asked each other,
- ALL “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

JESUS CURES A MADMAN AND RAISES A DEAD GIRL

(5:1-43)

5:1-20 Jesus restores a demon-possessed man (b)

- A ¹They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes.
- B ²When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him.
- C ³This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain.
- D ⁴For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet.
- ALL No one was strong enough to subdue him.
- B ⁵Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.
- C ⁶When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him.
- A ⁷He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God’s name don’t torture me!”
- D ⁸For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you evil spirit!”
- C ⁹Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”
- ALL ¹⁰“My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.”
- A ¹⁰And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.
- B ¹¹A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside.
- C ¹²The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.”
- D ¹³He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs.
- B The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.
- C ¹⁴Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened.

- A ¹⁵When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.
- D ¹⁶Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well.
- ALL ¹⁷Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.
- B ¹⁸As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him.
- C ¹⁹Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”
- A ²⁰So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him.
- ALL And all the people were amazed.

5:21-43 Jesus heals a sick woman and raises a dead girl (a and b)

- A ²¹**When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake,**
- ALL **a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake.**
- B ²²**Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet.**
- C ²³**He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.”**
- D ²⁴**So Jesus went with him.**
- ALL **A large crowd followed and pressed around him.**
- B ²⁵And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.
- D ²⁶She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse.
- A ²⁷When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.”

- C ²⁹Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.
- D ³⁰At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him.
- B He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"
- A ³¹"You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' "
- C ³²But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it.
- B ³³Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.
- A ³⁴He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."
- D ³⁵**While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader.**
- B "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?"
- C ³⁶Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."
- A ³⁷**He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James.**
- B ³⁸**When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly.**
- D ³⁹**He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep."**
- ALL ⁴⁰**But they laughed at him.**
- C **After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was.**
- A ⁴¹**He took her by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha koum!*"**
- D **(which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!")**
- B ⁴²**Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old).**
- ALL **At this they were completely astonished.**
- C ⁴³**He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.**

JESUS SENDS OUT THE TWELVE AND FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND (6:1-44)

6:1-6 A prophet without honour (b)

- A ¹Jesus left there and went to his home town, accompanied by his disciples.
- B ²When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.
- ALL and many who heard him were amazed.
- C “Where did this man get these things?” they asked.
- D “What’s this wisdom that has been given him?”
- B What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?
- A ³Isn’t this the carpenter?
- C Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon?
- D Aren’t his sisters here with us?”
- ALL And they took offence at him.
- B ⁴Jesus said to them, “Only in their own towns, among their relatives and in their own homes are prophets without honour.”
- D ⁵He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.
- A ⁶He was amazed at their lack of faith.

6:7-13 Jesus sends out the Twelve (b)

- C Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.
- B ⁷Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.
- A ⁸These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts.
- C ⁹Wear sandals but not an extra shirt.
- D ¹⁰Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town.
- A ¹¹And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them.”
- ALL ¹²They went out and preached that people should repent.

- B ¹³They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

6:14-29 John the Baptist beheaded (c and b)

- ¹⁴King Herod heard about this, for Jesus’ name had become well known. Some were saying, “John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him.” ¹⁵Others said, “He is Elijah.” And still others claimed, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago.” ¹⁶But when Herod heard this, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!”
- C ¹⁷For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison.
- B He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, whom he had married.
- D ¹⁸For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.”
- A ¹⁹So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him.
- B But she was not able to, ²⁰because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man.
- C When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.
- D ²¹Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. ²²When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced,
- ALL she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.
- A The king said to the girl, “Ask me for anything you want, and I’ll give it to you.”
- C ²³And he promised her with an oath, “Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom.”
- B ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, “What shall I ask for?”
- D “The head of John the Baptist,” she answered.
- B ²⁵At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: “I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”

- C ²⁶The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her.
- A ²⁷So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head.
- D The man went, beheaded John in the prison, ²⁸and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother.
- BC ²⁹On hearing of this, John's disciples came
- AD and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

6:30-44 Jesus feeds the five thousand

- C ³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.
- A ³¹Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them,
- B "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."
- D ³²So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.
- A ³³But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.
- B ³⁴When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them,
- ALL because they were like sheep without a shepherd.
- B So he began teaching them many things.
- C ³⁵By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him.
- AD "This is a remote place," they said,
- BC "and it's already very late.
- A ³⁶Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."
- C ³⁷But he answered, "You give them something to eat."
- AD They said to him, "That would take almost a year's wages!

- BC Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"
- C ³⁸"How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see."
- When they found out, they said,
- ALL "Five—and two fish."
- D ³⁹Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.
- B ⁴¹Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves.
- A Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people.
- C He also divided the two fish among them all.
- ALL ⁴²They all ate and were satisfied,
- D ⁴³and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.
- B ⁴⁴The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

(6:45-7:23)

6:45-56 Jesus walks on the water (b)

- A ⁴⁵Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.
- B ⁴⁶After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.
- C ⁴⁷When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land.
- D ⁴⁸He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them.
- A Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake.
- B He was about to pass by them,
- C ⁴⁹but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost.
- ALL They cried out, ⁵⁰because they all saw him and were terrified.
- D Immediately he spoke to them and said,
- A “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”
- C ⁵¹Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down.
- ALL They were completely amazed,
- B ⁵²for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.
- A ⁵³When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there.
- B ⁵⁴As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus.
- ⁵⁵They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was.
- C ⁵⁶And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces.
- D They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak,
- ALL and all who touched him were healed.

7:1-23 What makes a person unclean (c and a)

¹The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ²and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

⁵So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?” ⁶He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “*“These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁷They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.”* ⁸You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

⁹And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! ¹⁰For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’ ¹¹But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God)— ¹²then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. ¹³Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.”

- A ¹⁴Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said,
- B **“Listen to me, everyone, and understand this.**
- ^{15[16]} **Nothing outside you can defile you by going into you.**
- C **Rather, it is what comes out of you that defiles you.”**
- D ¹⁷After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable.
- B ¹⁸“Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters you from the outside can defile you?
- A ¹⁹For it doesn’t go into your heart but into your stomach, and then out of your body.”
- C **(In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)**
- B ²⁰He went on: “What comes out of you is what defiles you.
- ALL ^{21,22}For from within, out of your hearts, come evil thoughts, (D) sexual immorality, (C) theft, (B) murder, (A) adultery, (C) greed, (D) malice, (B) deceit, (A) lewdness, (C) envy, (D) slander, (B) arrogance (A) and folly.
- ALL ²³All these evils come from inside and defile you.”

JESUS HELPS NON-JEWS AND HEALS A BLIND MAN (7:24-8:26)

7:24-30 Jesus honours a Syro-Phoenician woman's faith (b)

- A ²⁴Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre.
 B He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret.
 C ²⁵In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet.
 D ²⁶The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia.
 C She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.
 B ²⁷"First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."
 A ²⁸"Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."
 C ²⁹Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter."
 D ³⁰She went home and found her child lying on the bed,
 ALL and the demon gone.

7:31-37 Jesus Heals a Deaf and Mute Man (b)

- A ³¹Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon,
 B down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis.
 C ³²There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.
 D ³³After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears.
 B Then he spat and touched the man's tongue.
 A ³⁴He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!")
 C ³⁵At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.
 B ³⁶Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone.
 A But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it.
 ALL ³⁷People were overwhelmed with amazement.

- C "He has done everything well," they said.
 D "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

8:1-10 Jesus feeds the four thousand (b)

- ALL ¹During those days another large crowd gathered.
 A Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said,
 B ²"I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat.
 C ³If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance."
 D ⁴His disciples answered, "But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?"
 B ⁵"How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked.
 ALL "Seven," they replied.
 C ⁶He told the crowd to sit down on the ground.
 A When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and they did so.
 D ⁷They had a few small fish as well;
 B he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them.
 ALL ⁸The people ate and were satisfied.
 C Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.
 ALL ⁹About four thousand were present.
 A And having sent them away, ¹⁰he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.

8:11-21 The yeast of the Pharisees and Herod (c)

"The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. ¹²He sighed deeply and said, "Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it." ¹³Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side. ¹⁴The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. ¹⁵"Be careful," Jesus warned them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod."

¹⁶They discussed this with one another and said, "It is because we have no bread."¹⁷Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: "Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened?"¹⁸Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember?¹⁹When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" "Twelve," they replied.²⁰"And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" They answered, "Seven."²¹He said to them, "Do you still not understand?"

8:22-26 Jesus heals a blind man at Bethsaida (a)

- A ²²They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him.
- B ²³He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village.
- C When he had spat on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked,
- D "Do you see anything?"
- B ²⁴He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."
- C ²⁵Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes.
- A Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored,
- ALL and he saw everything clearly.
- D ²⁶Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't even go into the village."

JESUS REVEALS WHO HE IS AND PREDICTS HIS DEATH

(8:27-38)

8:27-30 Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah (a)

- A ²⁷Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi.
- B On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"
- C ²⁸They replied, "Some say John the Baptist;
- D others say Elijah;
- B and still others, one of the prophets."
- A ²⁹"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
- C Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."
- D ³⁰Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

8:31-33 Jesus predicts his death (a)

- C ³¹He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things
- B and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law,
- D and that he must be killed
- A and after three days rise again.
- C ³²He spoke plainly about this,
- B and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.
- ALL ³³But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples,
- D he rebuked Peter.
- A "Get behind me, Satan!" he said.
- C "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

8:34-38 The way of the cross (a)

- ALL ³⁴Then he called the crowd to him
- B along with his disciples and said:
- A "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves
- ALL and take up their cross and follow me.
- C ³⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it,

- D but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.
- A ³⁶What good is it for you to gain the whole world, yet forfeit your soul?
- ALL ³⁷Or what can you give in exchange for your soul?
- B ³⁸If any of you are ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation,
- D the Son of Man will be ashamed of you
- ALL when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."