

MATTHEW

THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS CHRIST

1 An^a account^b of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David,^c the Son of Abraham:^d

FROM ABRAHAM TO DAVID

- ² Abraham fathered^a Isaac, Isaac fathered Jacob, Jacob fathered Judah and his brothers,^e
- ³ Judah fathered Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez fathered Hezron, Hezron fathered Aram,^f
- ⁴ Aram fathered Amminadab, Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon,
- ⁵ Salmon fathered Boaz by Rahab, Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth, Obed fathered Jesse,^g
- ⁶ and Jesse fathered King David.

FROM DAVID TO THE BABYLONIAN EXILE

- David fathered Solomon^h by Uriah's wife,^h
- ⁷ Solomon fathered Rehoboam, Rehoboam fathered Abijah, Abijah fathered Asa,^c
 - ⁸ Asa^c fathered Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat fathered Joram,^d Joram fathered Uzziah,ⁱ
 - ⁹ Uzziah fathered Jotham, Jotham fathered Ahaz, Ahaz fathered Hezekiah,
 - ¹⁰ Hezekiah fathered Manasseh, Manasseh fathered Amon,^e

Amon fathered Josiah,^j and Josiah fathered Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.^k

FROM THE EXILE TO THE MESSIAH

- ¹² After the exile to Babylon Jeconiah fathered Shealtiel, Shealtiel fathered Zerubbabel,
- ¹³ Zerubbabel fathered Abiud, Abiud fathered Eliakim, Eliakim fathered Azor,^l
- ¹⁴ Azor fathered Zadok, Zadok fathered Achim, Achim fathered Eliud,
- ¹⁵ Eliud fathered Eleazar, Eleazar fathered Matthan, Matthan fathered Jacob,
- ¹⁶ and Jacob fathered Joseph the husband of Mary, who gave birth to Jesus who is called the Messiah.^m

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations; and from David until the exile to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the exile to Babylon until the Messiah, fourteen generations.ⁿ

THE NATIVITY OF THE MESSIAH

¹⁸ The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged^f to Joseph, it was

^aIn vv. 2–16 either a son, as here, or a later descendant, as in v. 8 ^bOther mss add *King* ^cOther mss read *Asaph*
^d= Jehoram ^eOther mss read *Amos* ^fOr *betrothed*

1:1–6 ^aRu 4:18–22; 2Sm 7:12–16; 1Ch 2:1–15; Lk 3:32–34 1:1 ^bMk 12:26; Lk 3:4; Ac 1:20; Php 4:3; Rv 3:5 ^cPs 89:3; Is 9:6; Lk 1:32, 69 ^dGn 22:18; Mt 9:7; Rm 1:3; Gl 3:16 1:2 ^eGn 29:35; Ps 14:7; 105:9; Mt 8:11; 22:32; Jms 2:21 1:3 ^fGn 38:29–30; 46:12; Lk 3:33 1:5 ^gRu 1:4; 2:1; Lk 3:32 1:6 ^h1Sm 16:1; 17:12; 2Sm 11:27; 12:24 1:7–8 ⁱ1Kg 11:43; 14:31; 15:8, 24; 22:50; 2Kg 14:21 1:9–10 ^j2Kg 15:5, 38; 16:20; 20:21; 21:18, 24 1:11 ^k2Kg 24:6, 14; Is 5:13; Jr 27:20; Ezk 1:1; Mt 1:17 1:12–13 ^lGn 10:10; 1Ch 3:17; Lk 3:27, 30 1:16 ^mMt 27:17, 22; Lk 2:11; Jn 1:45; 4:25 1:17 ⁿ2Kg 24:14; Jr 27:20; Dn 9:25–26; Mk 8:29; Ac 2:31, 36, 38

discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit.^a ¹⁹ So her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man,^b and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.^c

²⁰ But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.^d

²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus,^e because he will save his people from their sins."^f

²² Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ **See, the virgin will
become pregnant
and give birth to a son,
and they will
name him Immanuel,^g**

which is translated "God is with us."^g

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her^h ²⁵ but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son.^h And he named him Jesus.ⁱ

WISE MEN VISIT THE KING

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem,^j ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?^k For we saw his star at its rising^l and have come to worship him."^c

³ When King Herod heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem

with him. ⁴ So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes^m of the people and asked them where the Messiah would be born.

⁵ "In Bethlehem of Judea," they told him, "because this is what was written by the prophet:

⁶ **And you, Bethlehem,
in the land of Judah,
are by no means least
among the rulers of Judah:
Because out of you
will come a ruler
who will shepherd
my people Israel."**^{d,n}

⁷ Then Herod secretly summoned the wise men and asked them the exact time the star appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report back to me so that I too can go and worship him."^{e,o}

⁹ After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was—the star they had seen at its rising. It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped him.^f Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.^p

¹² And being warned^q in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route.

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

¹³ After they were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Get up! Take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there

^aIs 7:14 ^bOther mss read to her firstborn son ^cOr to pay him homage ^dMc 5:2 ^eOr and pay him homage ^fOr they paid him homage

^{1:18} ^gMt 12:46; Lk 1:27,35 ^{1:19} ^bMt 13:17; Mk 10:12; Lk 2:36; 1Co 14:35; 2Co 11:2; Gl 4:27 ^cDt 22:20-24; 24:1-4; Mt 2:7; Lk 16:18; Jn 8:4-5 ^{1:20} ^d2Ch 1:1; Mt 13:49; 27:19; Jn 6:20; Rm 1:3 ^{1:21} ^eLk 1:31; 2:21; Jn 10:25; 1Jn 2:12 ^fLk 2:11; Jn 1:29; Ac 4:12; 5:31; 13:23,38-39 ^{1:22-23} ^gIs 7:14; Mt 21:1-4; Lk 24:44; Rm 1:2-4 ^{1:24} ^hMt 1:6; 13:49; Lk 1:1; 19:32; Jd 5 ^{1:25} ⁱGn 4:1,17; Ex 13:2; Jdg 11:39; 15m 1:19; Lk 2:7,21 ^{2:1} ^jGn 25:6; 1Kg 4:30; Lk 1:5; 2:4-7 ^{2:2} ^kJr 23:5; 30:9; Zch 9:9; Mt 27:11; Lk 19:38; Jn 1:49 ¹Nm 24:17; Rv 22:16 ^{2:4} ^mMt 16:21; 20:18; 21:15; 27:41; Lk 9:22 ^{2:6} ⁿ2Sm 5:2; Mc 5:2; Jn 7:42; 21:16 ^{2:7-8} ^oMk 5:6; Lk 1:7; Ac 13:6; Rv 1:16 ^{2:11} ^pPs 72:10; Is 60:6; Mt 1:18; 12:46; Mk 5:6 ^{2:12} ^qMt 27:19; Lk 2:26; Ac 10:22; Heb 8:5; 11:7

until I tell you. For Herod is about to search for the child to kill him.”^a
¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and escaped to Egypt. ¹⁵ He stayed there until Herod’s death, so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled: **Out of Egypt I called my Son.**^{a,b}

THE MASSACRE OF THE INNOCENTS

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he realized that he had been outwitted by the wise men, flew into a rage. He gave orders to massacre all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, in keeping with the time he had learned from the wise men.^c ¹⁷ Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

¹⁸ **A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping,^g and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children; and she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.**^{c,d}

THE RETURN TO NAZARETH

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,^e ²⁰ saying, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, because those who intended to kill the child are dead.” ²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother, and entered the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned in a dream, he withdrew to the region of Galilee.^f ²³ Then he went and settled in a town called Nazareth to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.^g

THE HERALD OF THE MESSIAH

3 In those days John the Baptist came,^h preaching in the wilderness of Judeaⁱ ² and saying, “Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!”^j
³ For he is the one spoken of through the prophet Isaiah, who said:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight!^{d,k}

⁴ Now John had a camel-hair garment with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then people from Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the vicinity of the Jordan were going out to him,⁶ and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.^l

⁷ When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees^m coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?”ⁿ ⁸ Therefore produce fruit^o consistent with^e repentance. ⁹ And don’t presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’^p For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.^q

¹¹ “I baptize you with^r water for repentance,^r but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to remove^g his sandals. He himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.^s ¹² His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will

^a Hs 11:1 ^b Other mss read *Ramah, lamentation, and weeping*. ^c Jr 31:15 ^d Is 40:3 ^e Lit *fruit worthy of* ^f Or *in* ^g Or *to carry*

^{2:13} ^a Mt 1:20; 13:49; Mk 11:18; Jms 4:7 ^{2:15} ^b Ex 4:22; Nm 24:8; Hs 11:1 ^{2:16} ^c Is 59:7; Mk 10:34; Ac 13:6; 25:3; Rv 12:4
^{2:18} ^d Gn 35:19; Jdg 4:5; Jr 31:15; Ac 8:2; 2Co 7:7 ^{2:19} ^e Mt 1:20; 13:49; Lk 1:11; Jd 5 ^{2:22} ^f Mt 17:22; Lk 1:5; Ac 27:29; Col 3:21; Heb 8:5 ^{2:23} ^g Mk 1:24; Lk 1:26; Jn 1:45–46 ^{3:1–12} ^h Mk 1:3–8; Lk 3:2–17; Jn 1:6–8, 19–28 ^{3:1} ⁱ Jos 15:61; Jdg 1:16 ^{3:2} ^j Dn 2:44; Mt 4:17; 6:10; 10:7; Mk 1:15; Lk 10:9; 11:20; 21:31 ^{3:3} ^k Is 40:3; Lk 1:17, 76; Jn 1:23 ^{3:5–6} ^l Mt 23:37; Mk 1:5; Lk 3:3; Jn 15:22; Ac 19:18 ^{3:7} ^m Mt 16:1; 22:23; 23:15; Ac 4:1; 5:17; 23:6 ⁿ Mt 12:34; 23:33; Rm 5:9; 1Th 1:10 ^{3:8} ^o Mt 3:10; 12:33; 13:8, 26; 21:19, 34, 41, 43; Mk 11:14 ^{3:9} ^p Lk 3:8; Jn 8:33, 39; Ac 13:26; Rm 4:1 ^{3:10} ^q Mt 7:19; Lk 13:7, 9; Jn 15:2, 6 ^{3:11} ^r Mk 1:4, 8; Jn 1:26; Ac 1:5 ^{3:11} ^s Is 4:4; Jn 1:33; Ac 2:3–4; 11:16; Ti 3:5

clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn. But the chaff he will burn with fire that never goes out.”^a

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.^b ¹⁴ But John tried to stop him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?”

¹⁵ Jesus answered him, “Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John allowed him to be baptized.

¹⁶ When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens^c suddenly opened for him,^a and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him.^d ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased.”^e

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

4 Then^f Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.^g ² After he had fasted forty days and forty nights,^h he was hungry. ³ Then the tempter approached him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”ⁱ

⁴ He answered, “It is written: **Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**”^{j,k}

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city, had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,^k ⁶ and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written:

**He will give his angels/
orders concerning you,
and they will support you
with their hands
so that you will not strike
your foot against a stone.”**^{c,m}

⁷ Jesus told him, “It is also written: **Do not test the Lord your God.**”^{n,o}

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ And he said to him, “I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me.”^e

¹⁰ Then Jesus told him, “Go away,^f Satan! For it is written: **Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.**”^{g,o}

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and began to serve him.^p

MINISTRY IN GALILEE

¹² When he heard that John had been arrested,^q he withdrew into Galilee.^r ¹³ He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum^s by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

**¹⁵ Land of Zebulun and land
of Naphtali,
along the road by the sea,
beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles.
¹⁶ The people who live
in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those living
in the land of the
shadow of death,
a light has dawned.**^{h,i,t}

¹⁷ From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, because the kingdom of heaven^u has come near.”

^aOther mss omit for him. ^bDt 8:3. ^cPs 91:11-12. ^dDt 6:16. ^eOr and pay me homage. ^fOther mss read “Get behind me.” ^gDt 6:13. ^hLit dawned on them. ⁱIs 9:1-2.

^{3:12} ^qIs 30:24; Mt 13:30; Mk 9:43,48; Lk 3:17. ^{3:13-17} ^rMk 1:9-11; Lk 3:21-22; Jn 1:31-34. ^{3:16} ^sMt 24:35; Lk 12:33; Ac 17:24; Eph 6:9; Rv 21:10. ^dIs 11:2; Jn 1:32; Ac 7:56; 2Pt 1:17. ^{3:17} ^tPs 2:7; Is 42:1; Lk 9:35; Jn 12:28. ^{4:1-11} ^uMk 1:12-13; Lk 4:1-13. ^{4:1} ^vJos 15:61; Jdg 1:16; Jn 1:6-7; Jms 1:14. ^{4:2} ^wEx 34:28; 1Kg 19:8; Jn 9:4. ^{4:3} ^xMk 3:11; 5:7; Lk 1:35; 4:41; Jn 1:34,49; Ac 9:20. ^{4:4} ^yDt 8:3. ^{4:5} ^zNeh 11:1,18; Dn 9:24; Mt 27:53. ^{4:6} ^{aa}Gn 16:7; Mt 13:49; Lk 1:11; Ac 5:19; Rv 14:6. ^{aa}Ps 91:11-12; 1Pt 2:8. ^{4:7} ^{ab}Dt 6:16; 1Sm 7:3; 1Ch 21:1. ^{4:10} ^{ac}Dt 6:13; 1Ch 21:1. ^{4:11} ^{ad}Mt 26:53; Lk 22:43; Heb 1:14. ^{4:12} ^{ae}Mt 14:3; Mk 1:14; Lk 3:20; Jn 3:24. ^{ae}Lk 4:14; Jn 1:43; 2:11. ^{4:13} ^{af}Mk 1:21; 2:1; Lk 4:23; Jn 2:12; 4:46. ^{4:15-16} ^{ag}Is 9:1-2; 42:7; Lk 2:32. ^{4:17} ^{ah}Mt 3:2; 5:3,10,19-20; 7:21; 8:11; Mk 1:14.

THE FIRST DISCIPLES

¹⁸As^a he was walking along the Sea of Galilee,^b he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter), and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹“Follow me,” he told them, “and I will make you fish for^a people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

²¹Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father, preparing their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

TEACHING, PREACHING, AND HEALING

²³Now Jesus began to go all over Galilee,^c teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every^b disease and sickness^c among the people.^d ²⁴Then the news about him spread throughout Syria.^e So they brought to him all those who were afflicted, those suffering from various diseases and intense pains, the demon-possessed, the epileptics, and the paralytics.^f And he healed them. ²⁵Large crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.^g

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

5 When he saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain,^h and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then^o he began to teach them, saying:ⁱ

THE BEATITUDES

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit,^j for the kingdom of heaven^k is theirs.

4 Blessed are those who mourn,^l for they will be comforted.
5 Blessed are the humble,^m for they will inherit the earth.
6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,ⁿ for they will be filled.
7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.^o
8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.^p
9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.^q
10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven^r is theirs.

11 “You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. ¹²Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted^s the prophets who were before you.^t

BELIEVERS ARE SALT AND LIGHT

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty?^e It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.^u

14 “You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden.^v ¹⁵No one lights a lamp^w and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house.^x ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.^y

^aOr you fishers of ^bOr every kind of ^cOr physical ailment ^dLit Then opening his mouth ^eOr how can the earth be salted?

4:18–22 ^aMk 1:16–20; Lk 5:2–11; Jn 1:40–42 **4:18** ^bMt 15:29; Mk 7:31; Lk 5:1; Jn 6:1 **4:23–25** ^cMk 1:35–39; Lk 4:42–44 **4:23** ^dMt 13:54; 24:14; Ac 10:38 **4:24** ^eLk 2:2; Ac 15:23; Gl 1:21 ^fMt 8:16; 9:32; Mk 5:15; Jn 10:21 **4:25** ^gMk 3:7; 5:20; Lk 6:17 ^hMk 3:13; Lk 9:28; Jn 6:3,15 **5:2** ⁱAc 8:35; 10:34; 18:14 **5:3** ^jIs 57:15; 66:2 ^kMt 19:14; 25:34; Mk 10:14; Lk 6:20 **5:4** ^lIs 61:2; Mt 11:29; 21:5; Jn 16:20; Rv 7:17 **5:5** ^mPs 37:11; Rm 4:13; Rv 21:7 **5:6** ⁿIs 55:1–2; Jn 4:14; 6:48; 7:37 **5:7** ^oPr 11:17; Mt 18:33; Lk 6:36; 2Tm 1:16 **5:8** ^pPs 24:4; Heb 12:14; 1Jn 3:2; Rv 22:4 **5:9** ^qMt 5:45; Lk 6:35; Rm 8:14; Jms 3:18; 1Jn 3:1 **5:10** ^rMt 19:14; 25:34; Mk 10:14; Lk 6:20; 22:29 **5:12** ^sMt 2:23; 2Tm 3:12 ^tMt 23:37; Ac 7:52; 1Th 2:15 **5:13** ^uMk 9:50; Lk 14:34 **5:14** ^vPr 4:18; Jn 8:12; Php 2:15 **5:15** ^wJn 5:35; Rv 21:23 ^xMk 4:21; Lk 8:16; 11:33 **5:16** ^yMt 9:8; Jn 15:8; 1Pt 2:12

CHRIST FULFILLS THE LAW

¹⁷“Don’t think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.^a ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter^A or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things are accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever does and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.^b ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

MURDER BEGINS IN THE HEART

²¹“You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, **Do not murder**,^{c,8} and whoever murders will be subject to judgment.^d ²²But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister^c will be subject to judgment. Whoever insults^d his brother or sister, will be subject to the court.^e Whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be subject to hellfire.^{f,9} ²³So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Reach a settlement quickly with your adversary while you’re on the way with him to the court, or your adversary will

^AOr not one iota; iota is the smallest letter of the Gk alphabet. ⁸Ex 20:13; Dt 5:17 ^COther mss add without a cause ^DLit Whoever says ‘Raca’; an Aramaic term of abuse that puts someone down, insulting one’s intelligence ^ELit Sanhedrin ^FLit the gehenna of fire ⁹Other mss read judge will hand you over to ^HLit quadrans, the smallest and least valuable Roman coin, worth 1/64 of a daily wage ^IEx 20:14; Dt 5:18 ^JDt 24:1 ^KLv 19:12; Nm 30:2; Dt 23:21

hand you over to the judge, and the judge to⁶ the officer, and you will be thrown into prison.^f ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny.^h

ADULTERY BEGINS IN THE HEART

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, **Do not commit adultery**,^{1,9} ²⁸But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.^h ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin,ⁱ gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.^j ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

DIVORCE PRACTICES CENSURED

³¹“It was also said, **Whoever divorces^k his wife must give her a written notice of divorce**.^{l,j} ³²But I tell you, everyone who divorces his wife, except in a case of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.^m

TELL THE TRUTH

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to our ancestors, **You must not break your oath, but you must keep your oaths to the Lord**.^{k,n} ³⁴But I tell you, don’t take an oath at all: either by heaven, because it is God’s throne; ³⁵or by the earth, because it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King.^o ³⁶Do not swear by your head, because you cannot make a single hair white or black. ³⁷But let your ‘yes’ mean ‘yes,’ and your ‘no’ mean ‘no.’ Anything more than this is from the evil one.^p

^{5:17} ^aMt 7:12; Rm 3:31; 10:4; 13:8; Gl 3:24 ^{5:18–19} ^bMt 11:11; 24:35; Lk 16:17; Jms 2:10 ^{5:21} ^cEx 20:13; Dt 5:17 ^dMt 19:18; 23:31,35; Mk 10:19; Lk 18:20; Rm 13:9; Jms 2:11 ^{5:22} ^eMt 18:9; Mk 9:43; Jms 3:6; 1Jn 3:15 ^{5:25} ^fPr 25:8; Lk 12:58 ^{5:27} ^gEx 20:14; Dt 5:18 ^{5:28} ^h2Sm 11:2; Jb 31:1; Pr 6:25 ^{5:29} ⁱMt 18:9; Mk 9:47 ^jMt 10:28; 23:15,33; Lk 12:5 ^{5:31} ^kJr 3:1; Mt 19:7; Mk 10:4 ^lDt 24:1 ^{5:32} ^mMt 19:9; Mk 10:11; Lk 16:18; Rm 7:3; 1Co 7:11 ^{5:33} ⁿLv 19:12; Nm 30:2; Dt 23:21; Mt 23:16 ^{5:34–35} ^oPs 48:2; Is 66:1; Mt 23:22; Ac 7:49; Jms 5:12 ^{5:37} ^pMt 6:13; 13:19,38; Jn 17:15; 2Th 3:3

GO THE SECOND MILE

38 “You have heard that it was said, **An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.**^a 39 But I tell you, don’t resist^b an evildoer. On the contrary, if anyone slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.^b 40 As for the one who wants to sue you and take away your shirt, let him have your coat as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and don’t turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.^c

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

43 “You have heard that it was said, **Love your neighbor**^{c,d} and hate your enemy. 44 But I tell you, love your enemies^d and pray for those who^e persecute you,^e 45 so that you may be^f children of your Father in heaven. For he causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.^f 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? Don’t even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what are you doing out of the ordinary?^g 48 Don’t even the Gentiles^h do the same? 48 Be perfect,^h therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

HOW TO GIVE

6 “Be careful not to practice your righteousnessⁱ in front of others to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward with your Father in heaven. 2 So whenever you give to the poor, don’t sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be applauded by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward.ⁱ 3 But when you give to the poor, don’t

let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.^j

HOW TO PRAY

5 “Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward.^k 6 But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.^{k,l} 7 When you pray, don’t babble like the Gentiles, since they imagine they’ll be heard for their many words.^m 8 Don’t be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask him.ⁿ

THE LORD’S PRAYER

9 “Therefore, you should pray like this:^o
Our Father in heaven,
your name be honored as holy.^p
10 Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.^q
11 Give us today our daily bread.^r
12 And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven
our debtors.^r
13 And do not bring us
into^s temptation,^s
but deliver us from the evil one.^{n,t}

^a Ex 21:24; Lv 24:20; Dt 19:21. ^b Or don’t set yourself against, or don’t retaliate against. ^c Lv 19:18. ^d Other mss add bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, ^e Other mss add mistreat you and ^f Or may become, or may show yourselves to be ^g Or doing that is superior; lit doing more ^h Other mss read tax collectors ⁱ Other mss read charitable giving ^j Other mss read will himself reward you openly ^k Other mss add openly ^l Or our necessary bread, or our bread for tomorrow ^m Or do not cause us to come into ⁿ Or from evil; some later mss add For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

5:38 ^a Ex 21:24; Lv 24:20; Dt 19:21. 5:39 ^b Lk 6:29–30; Rm 12:17; 1Co 6:7; 1Pt 3:9. 5:42 ^c Dt 15:8; Lk 6:34. 5:43 ^d Lv 19:18; Dt 23:6; Lk 10:29. 5:44 ^e Lk 6:27; 23:34; Ac 7:60; Rm 12:20; 1Co 4:12; 1Pt 2:23. 5:45 ^f Jb 25:3; Mt 5:9; Lk 6:35; Ac 14:17. 5:47 ^g Mt 5:37; Mk 6:51; Jn 10:10; Rm 3:1; 2Co 9:1. 5:48 ^h Gn 17:1; Lv 19:2; Php 3:15; Col 4:12; Jms 1:4; 1Pt 1:15. 6:1–2 ⁱ Mt 23:5; Lk 6:24. 6:4 ^j Jr 17:10; Lk 14:14; Col 3:23–24; Heb 4:13. 6:5 ^k Mt 6:16; Mk 11:25; Lk 6:24; 18:11. 6:6 ^l 2Kg 4:33; Is 26:20; Mt 6:18. 6:7 ^m 1Kg 18:26; Ec 5:2. 6:8 ⁿ Mt 9:12; Mk 2:17; Lk 5:31; 9:11; 10:42; Ac 2:45. 6:9–13 ^o Lk 11:1–13. 6:9 ^p Lk 11:2; 1Co 7:14. 6:10 ^q Ps 103:20; Mt 3:2; 4:17; 26:42; Lk 22:42; Ac 21:14. 6:11–12 ^r Pr 30:8; Rm 4:4; Gl 5:3. 6:13 ^s Mt 26:41; 1Co 10:13; 2Pt 2:9. 6:13 ^t Mt 5:37; Jn 17:15; 2Th 3:3; 2Tm 4:18.