

# Mark

**JOHN PREPARES FOR  
JESUS** (1:1–8; Matt. 3:1–12;  
Luke 3:1–18; John 1:19–28)

**1** This is the beginning of the ·Good News

**2** “[Look; †Behold,] I ·will send [am sending] my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way [Mal. 3:1].”

**3** “This is a voice of one who ·calls out [shouts; cries out] in the ·desert [wilderness]: ‘Prepare the way for the Lord. Make ·the road straight [a clear path] for him [Is. 40:3].”

**4** John [c<sup>c</sup>the Baptist] was baptizing people in the ·desert [wilderness] and preaching a baptism of ·changed hearts and lives [turning from sin; repentance] for the ·forgiveness [remission] of sins.

**5** All the people from Judea and Jerusalem were going out to him. They confessed their sins and were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

**6** John wore clothes made from camel’s hair, had a leather belt around his waist [c<sup>c</sup>reminiscent of the prophet Elijah; 2 Kin. 1:8], and ate locusts and wild honey [c<sup>c</sup>signifies living off the land].

**7** This is what John preached to the people: “There is one coming after me who is ·greater [mightier; more powerful] than I; I am not ·good enough [fit; qualified] even to kneel down and untie [L<sup>L</sup>the thong/strap of] his sandals [c<sup>c</sup>a task of a servant or slave].

**8** I baptize you with water, but he will

**baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”**

**JESUS IS BAPTIZED  
AND TESTED** (1:9–13; Matt.  
3:13–17; 4:1–11; Luke 3:21–22;  
4:1–13)

9. **At that time** [In those days] **Jesus came from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan River.**

10. **Immediately, as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw ·heaven** [the sky] **·open** [split open]. **The Holy Spirit** [L-Spirit] **·came down** [descended] **on him like a dove** [c<sup>e</sup>ither in the form of a dove, or in bird-like descent],

11. **and a voice came from heaven: “You are my ·Son, whom I love** [dearly beloved Son; Ps. 2:7; Gen. 22:2], **·and I am very pleased with you** [in whom I take great delight; Is. 42:1].”

12. **Then** [Immediately] **the Spirit ·sent** [drove; compelled] **Jesus into the ·desert** [wilderness].

13. **He was in the ·desert** [wilderness] **forty days** [c<sup>a</sup>nalogous to Israel’s forty years] **and was ·tempted** [or tested] **by Satan** [c<sup>a</sup>s both Adam and Eve and the nation Israel in the wilderness were tempted, but failed]. **He was with the wild animals** [c<sup>d</sup>angerous or perhaps Eden-like conditions], **and the angels came and ·took care of** [served; ministered to] **him.**

**JESUS ANNOUNCES  
THE GOOD NEWS** (1:14–  
15; Matt. 4:17)

14. **After John was put in prison** [c<sup>b</sup>y Herod Antipas; cf. 6:14–29], **Jesus went into Galilee, preaching the ·Good News**

[Gospel] ·**from** [about] **God**.

15 **He said**, “**The ·right time has come** [L-time is fulfilled]. ·**The kingdom of God** [God’s sovereign rule] **is ·near** [at hand]. ·**Change your hearts and lives** [Turn from your sins; Repent] **and believe the ·Good News** [Gospel]!”

### **JESUS CHOOSES HIS FIRST FOLLOWERS**

*(1:16–20; Matt. 4:18–22; Luke 5:2–11; John 1:35–42)*

16 **When Jesus was walking by ·Lake Galilee** [Tthe Sea of Galilee], **he saw Simon** [CPeter; cf. 3:16] **and his brother Andrew ·throwing** [casting] **a net into the lake because they were fishermen**.

17 **Jesus said to them**, “**Come ·follow me** [be my disciples], **and I will ·make you** [teach you how to] **fish for people**.”

18 **So Simon and Andrew immediately left their nets and followed him**.

19 **Going a little farther, Jesus saw two more brothers, ·James and John, the sons of Zebedee** [L-James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John]. **They were in a boat, ·mending** [preparing] **their nets**.

20 **Jesus immediately called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired workers and followed Jesus**.

### **JESUS FORCES OUT AN EVIL SPIRIT** *(1:21–28; Luke 4:31–37)*

21 **Jesus and his ·followers** [disciples] **went to Capernaum** [Ca town on the northwest shore of Lake Galilee; it became Jesus’ home base]. **On the Sabbath day he went to the synagogue and began to teach**.

<sup>22</sup>The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught like [as] a person who had authority, not like [as] their teachers of the law [the scribes; <sup>c</sup>experts in the law of Moses]. <sup>23</sup>Just then, a man was there in the synagogue who had an evil [defiling; <sup>L</sup>unclean] spirit in him. [Demons were viewed as “unclean” or defiling spirit-beings.] He shouted,  
<sup>24</sup>“Jesus of Nazareth [the Nazarene]! What do you want with us? [Let us alone!; What business do we have with each other? <sup>L</sup>What to us and to you?] Did you come to destroy us? I know who you are—God’s Holy One!”  
<sup>25</sup>Jesus commanded [reprimanded; rebuked] the evil spirit, “Be quiet! Come out of the man!”  
<sup>26</sup>The evil [defiling; <sup>L</sup>unclean] spirit shook the man violently [threw him into convulsions], gave a loud cry [shriek], and then came out of him.  
<sup>27</sup>The people were [all] so amazed they asked each other, “What is happening here? This man is teaching something new, and with authority. He even gives commands [orders] to evil [defiling; <sup>L</sup>unclean] spirits, and they obey him.”  
<sup>28</sup>And the news [report; fame] about Jesus spread quickly everywhere in the area of Galilee.

**JESUS HEALS MANY  
PEOPLE** (1:29–39; Matt.  
8:14–17; Luke 4:38–43)

29 **As soon as Jesus and his followers** [disciples] **left the synagogue, they went to the home of Simon** [cPeter] **and Andrew, together with James and John.**

30 **Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever, and the people** [Lthey; ceither the people or the disciples] **told Jesus about her.**

31 **So Jesus went to her bed, took her hand, and helped** [raised] **her up. The fever left her, and she began serving them** [waiting on them; cpresumably meal preparation].

32 **That evening, after the sun went down, the people brought to Jesus all who were sick and had demons in them** [were demon-possessed]. 33 **The whole town gathered at the door.**

34 **Jesus healed many who had different kinds of sicknesses, and he forced many demons to leave people** [Ldrove/cast out many demons]. **But he would not allow the demons to speak, because they knew who he was.** [cThey knew he was the Messiah; Jesus wanted to avoid premature publicity.]

35 [Very] **Early the next morning, while it was still dark, Jesus woke** [got up] **and left the house. He went to a lonely** [isolated; deserted] **place, where he prayed.**

36 **Simon and his friends** [companions] **went to look for Jesus.**

37 **When they found him, they said,**  
**“Everyone is looking for you!”**

38 **Jesus answered, “We should [Let us] go to other towns around here so I can preach there, too. That is the reason I came.”**

39 **So he went everywhere in Galilee, preaching in the synagogues and forcing [driving; casting] out demons.**

**JESUS HEALS A SICK  
MAN** (1:40–45; Matt. 8:1–4;  
Luke 5:12–16)

40 **A man with a skin disease\*** [Tleprosy; cthe term does not refer to modern leprosy (Hansen’s disease), but to various skin disorders; Lev. 14] **came to Jesus. He fell to his knees and begged\* Jesus, “You can heal\* me [Lmake me clean; cleprosy rendered a person ceremonially defiled (“unclean”), and so unable to participate in Israel’s religious life] if you will [are willing; want to].”**

41 **Jesus felt sorry<sup>n</sup> [compassion\*] for the man, so he reached out\* his hand and touched\* him and said, “I will [am willing; want to]. Be healed\* [Lcleansed]!”**

42 **Immediately the disease\* [Tleprosy] left the man, and he was healed\* [Lcleansed].**

43 **Jesus told the man to go away at once, but he warned\* him strongly,**

44 **“Don’t tell anyone about this. But go and show\* yourself to the priest. And offer the gift\* [offering; sacrifices] Moses commanded for people who are made**

well\* [your cleansing; Lev. 14:1–32]. This will ·show\* the people [be a public testimony to; be evidence for] what I have done.”

45 The man left there, but he began to tell everyone that Jesus had healed\* him, and so he spread\* ·the news about Jesus [the message; the word]. As a result, Jesus could not enter a town ·if people saw him [publicly]. He stayed in ·places where nobody lived [secluded/ deserted places], but people ·came [kept coming] to him from everywhere.

**JESUS HEALS A  
PARALYZED MAN** (2:1–12;  
*Matt. 9:1–8; Luke 5:17–26*)

2 A few days later\*, when Jesus came back to Capernaum\*, the news spread that he was at home.

2 Many people gathered together\* so that there was no room in the house, not even ·outside [near; in front of] the door. And Jesus was ·teaching\* them God’s message\* [speaking the word to them].

3 Four people came, carrying a paralyzed\* man.

4 Since they could not get to Jesus because of the crowd\*, they dug a hole in the roof\* right above where he was speaking. [cPalestinian roofs were generally flat and made of thatch and dried mud.] When they got through\*, they lowered\* the ·mat\* [cot] with the paralyzed\* man on it.

5 **When Jesus saw the faith\* of these people, he said to the paralyzed\* man,** “**Young man\*** [Child; Son], **your sins\* are forgiven\*.**”

6 **Some of the teachers\* of the law** [scribes] **were sitting there, thinking\* to themselves,**

7 “**Why does this man say\* things like that** [speak this way]? **He is speaking\* as if he were God** [Lblaspheming]. **Only God can forgive\* sins\*.**” [L“Who can forgive sins but God alone?”; cf. Is. 43:25].

8 **Jesus knew\* immediately** [in his spirit] **what these teachers\* of the law were thinking\*.** **So he said\* to them,** “**Why are you thinking\* these things** [Lin your hearts]?”

9 **Which is easier\*: to tell\* this paralyzed\* man, ‘Your sins\* are forgiven\*,’ or to tell\* him, ‘Stand up\*. Take your mat\* [cot] and walk\*’?**

10 **But I will prove\* to you** [Lso that you may know] **that the Son of Man\*** [ca title for the Messiah; Dan. 7:13–14] **has authority\* on earth to forgive\* sins\*.** **So Jesus said\* to the paralyzed\* man,**

11 “**I tell\* you, stand up\*, take your mat\* [cot], and go home\*.**”

12 **Immediately the paralyzed\* man stood up\*, took his mat\* [cot], and walked out\* while everyone was watching\* him.** **The**

people were [all] amazed\* and praised\*  
God. They said\*, “We have never seen\*  
anything like this!”

<sup>13</sup>Jesus went to the lake again\*. The  
whole crowd ·followed\* him [came to him]  
there, and he taught\* them.

<sup>14</sup>While he was walking along, he saw\* a  
man named Levi\* son of Alphaeus\* sitting  
in the tax collector's booth\* [<sup>c</sup>probably a  
tariff booth for taxing goods in transit].  
Jesus said to him, “Follow\* me,” and he  
stood up and followed\* Jesus.

<sup>15</sup>Later, as Jesus was ·having dinner\*  
[L-reclining; <sup>c</sup>around a low table, the posture  
for a formal banquet or dinner party] at  
Levi's house, many tax collectors\* and  
sinners\* were eating\* there with Jesus  
and his followers\*. Many people like this  
followed\* Jesus.

<sup>16</sup>When the ·teachers\* of the law\* [scribes]  
who were Pharisees\* saw Jesus eating\*  
with the tax collectors\* and sinners\*, they  
asked his followers\*, “Why does he eat\*  
with tax collectors\* and sinners\*?” [<sup>c</sup>Tax  
collectors were despised because they  
worked for the Roman rulers and were  
notorious for corruption and extortion.]

<sup>17</sup>Jesus heard this and said to them, “It is  
not the healthy\* people who need a  
doctor\*, but the sick\*. I did not come to  
·invite\* [call] ·good\* people [the righteous;

☉meaning the “self-righteous” who feel no need to repent] **but to ·invite\*** [call] **sinner\*** [☉those who recognize their need to repent].”

**JESUS IS QUESTIONED  
ABOUT FASTING** (2:18–22;  
Matt. 9:14–17; Luke 5:33–39;  
John 3:29–30)

18**Now the ·followers** [disciples] **of John** [☉the Baptist; 1:4–8] **and the Pharisees often fasted** [☉giving up eating for spiritual purposes]. **·Some people** [☉They] **came to Jesus and said, “Why do John’s ·followers** [disciples] **and the ·followers** [disciples] **of the Pharisees often fast, but your ·followers** [disciples] **don’t?”**

19**Jesus answered, “The ·friends of the bridegroom** [or wedding guests; ☉children of the wedding hall] **do not fast while the bridegroom is still with them** [☉Jesus is referring to himself; John 3:29; Rev. 19:7]. **As long as the bridegroom is with them, they cannot fast.**

20**But the ·time** [☉days] **will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and ·then** [in that day] **they will fast.**

21**“No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth over a hole in an old ·coat** [garment]. **Otherwise, the patch will shrink and pull away—the new patch will pull away from the old ·coat** [garment]. **Then the ·hole** [tear] **will be worse.**

<sup>22</sup> **Also, no one ever pours new wine into old leather bags** [wineskins]. **Otherwise, the new wine will break the bags** [skins; <sup>c</sup>as the wine ferments and expands], **and the wine will be ruined along with the bags** [skins]. **But new wine should be put into new leather bags** [wineskins].”

**JESUS IS LORD OF THE SABBATH** (2:23–28; Matt. 12:1–8; Luke 6:1–5)

<sup>23</sup> **One Sabbath day, as Jesus was walking through some fields of grain, his followers** [disciples] **began to** [make a path and] **pick some grain to eat** [Deut. 23:25].

<sup>24</sup> **The Pharisees said to Jesus, “Why are your followers doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath day?”** [<sup>c</sup>Gleaning was viewed as work, and therefore forbidden on the Sabbath; Ex. 34:21.]

<sup>25</sup> **Jesus answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and those with him** [his companions] **were hungry and needed food** [1 Sam. 21:1–6]?”

<sup>26</sup> **During the time of Abiathar** [*or*, In the account about Abiathar] **the high priest, David went into God’s house and ate the holy bread** [consecrated bread; <sup>l</sup>bread of presentation], **which is lawful only for priests to eat** [Ex. 25:30; Lev. 24:5–9]. **And David also gave some of the bread to those who were with him.**”

<sup>27</sup> **Then Jesus said to the Pharisees, “The Sabbath day was made to help people**

[Tfor man]; **·they were not made to be ruled by** [Tnot man for] **the Sabbath day.**

<sup>28</sup> **So then, the Son of Man is ·Lord** [Master] **even of the Sabbath day.”**

**JESUS HEALS A MAN'S HAND** (3:1–6; Matt. 12:9–14; Luke 6:6–11)

**3 Another time when Jesus went into a synagogue, a man with a ·crippled** [paralyzed; deformed; shriveled] **hand was there.**

**2·Some people** [LThey; cprobably the Pharisees; see 2:24, 27] **watched Jesus closely to see if he would heal the man on the Sabbath day so they could accuse him.**

**3Jesus said to the man with the crippled hand, “Stand up here in ·the middle** [front] **of everyone.”**

**4Then Jesus asked ·the people** [Lthem; cprobably the Pharisees], **“Which is lawful** [caccording to the law of Moses] **on the Sabbath day to do good or to do evil, to save a life or to kill?” But they ·said nothing to answer him** [remained silent].

**5Jesus was angry as he looked at them, and he felt very ·sad** [distressed; grieved] **because ·they were stubborn** [of their hard hearts]. **Then he said to the man, “·Hold out** [stretch out] **your hand.” The man ·held out** [stretched out] **his hand and it was ·healed** [restored].

**6 Then the Pharisees left and** [immediately] **began ·making plans** [plotting] **with the Herodians** [ca political group that supported king Herod and his family] **about**

a way to **kill** [destroy] **Jesus**.

**MANY PEOPLE FOLLOW  
JESUS** (3:7–12; Matt. 12:15–  
16; Luke 6:17–19)

7 [**But**] **Jesus** left with his **followers**  
[disciples] **for the lake, and a large crowd**  
**from Galilee followed him.**

8 **Also many people came from Judea,**  
**from Jerusalem, from Idumea** [located to  
the south], **from the lands across the**  
**Jordan River, and from the area of Tyre**  
**and Sidon** [located to the north]. **When**  
**they heard what Jesus was doing, many**  
**people came to him.**

9 **When Jesus saw the crowds, he told his**  
**followers** [disciples] **to get a boat ready**  
**for him to keep people from crowding**  
**against** [crushing] **him.**

10 [**For**] **He had healed many people, so all**  
**the sick were pushing toward him to**  
**touch him.** 11 **When evil** [defiling;  
Unclean; see 1:23] **spirits** [within people]  
**saw Jesus, they fell down before him and**  
**shouted, “You are the Son of God!”**

12 **But Jesus strongly warned** [rebuked;  
ordered] **them not to tell who he was.**

**JESUS CHOOSES HIS  
TWELVE APOSTLES**  
(3:13–19; Matt. 10:1–4; Luke  
6:12–16)

13 **Then Jesus went up on a mountain** [to  
the hills] **and called to him those he**  
**wanted, and they came to him.**

14 **Jesus chose** [appointed] **twelve**  
[paralleling the twelve tribes of Israel] **and**  
**called them apostles**<sup>n</sup> [“apostle” means a  
messenger, or someone sent with a

commission]. **He wanted them to be with him, and he wanted to send them out to preach**

<sup>15</sup> **and to have the authority to force** [drive; cast] **demons out of people.**

<sup>16</sup> **These are the twelve he chose** [appointed]: **Simon (Jesus named him Peter),**

<sup>17</sup> **James and John, the sons of Zebedee (Jesus named them Boanerges, which** [in Aramaic] **means “Sons of Thunder”),**

<sup>18</sup> **Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot** [either religiously zealous, or a (former) member of the revolutionary movement known as Zealots],

<sup>19</sup> **and Judas Iscariot** [Iscariot probably means “man of Kerioth”], **who later turned against** [betrayed] **Jesus.**

**SOME PEOPLE SAY  
JESUS IS POSSESSED  
BY AN EVIL SPIRIT** (3:20–  
30; Matt. 9:32–34; 12:24–37;  
Luke 11:14–15, 17–23; 12:10)

<sup>20</sup> **Then Jesus went home** [into a house], **but again a crowd gathered. There were so many people that Jesus and his followers could not eat.**

<sup>21</sup> **When his family** [own people] **heard this, they went to get** [seize; take charge of] **him because they thought he was out of his mind.**

<sup>22</sup> **But** [what’s more] **the teachers of the law** [scribes] **from Jerusalem were saying, “Beelzebul** [another name for Satan] **is living inside** [possessing] **him! He uses power**

**from the ·ruler** [prince] **of demons to ·force** [drive; cast] **demons out of people.**”

<sup>23</sup> **So Jesus called the people together and ·taught them with stories** [spoke to them in parables; <sup>c</sup>Greek *parabole*, which can mean stories and analogies of various kinds]. **He said, “Satan will not force himself out of people.** [“How can Satan drive out Satan?]

<sup>24</sup> **A kingdom that is ·divided** [at war with itself] **cannot ·continue** [stand],

<sup>25</sup> **and a ·family** [household; <sup>L</sup>house] **that is divided cannot ·continue** [stand].

<sup>26</sup> **And** [then, so] **if Satan ·is** [rises; rebels] **against himself and ·fights against his own people** [is divided], **he cannot ·continue** [stand]; **that is the end of Satan.**

<sup>27</sup> **No one can enter a strong man’s house and ·steal** [seize; plunder] **his things unless he first ·ties up** [binds] **the strong man** [Is. 49:24–25]. **Then he can ·steal** [seize; plunder] **things from the house.**

[<sup>c</sup>Satan is the strong man and his possessions are the people Jesus is freeing from Satan’s power.]

<sup>28</sup> **I tell you the truth, all sins that people do and all ·the things people say against God** [blasphemies] **can be forgiven.**

<sup>29</sup> **But anyone who ·speaks against** [blasphemes] **the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of ·a sin that continues forever** [a sin with eternal consequences; <sup>L</sup>an eternal sin].”

<sup>30</sup> **Jesus said this because the teachers of the law said that he had an ·evil** [defiling; <sup>L</sup>unclean] **spirit inside him.**

**JESUS' TRUE FAMILY**  
(3:31–35; Matt. 12:46–50; Luke  
8:19–21)

31 **Then Jesus' mother and brothers** [or brothers and sisters; <sup>c</sup>the Greek word can mean “siblings”; cf. 6:3] **arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to tell him to come out.**

32 **Many people were sitting around Jesus, and they said to him, “Your mother and brothers<sup>n</sup> are waiting** [looking; asking] **for you outside.”**

33 **Jesus asked, “Who are my mother and my brothers** [and sisters]?”

34 **Then he looked at those sitting around him and said, “Here are** [Look; <sup>T</sup>Behold,] **my mother and my brothers** [and sisters]!

35 **My true brother and sister and mother are those who do what God wants** [the will of God].”

**A STORY ABOUT  
PLANTING SEED** (4:1–9;  
Matt. 13:1–9; Luke 8:4–8)

4 **Again Jesus began teaching by the lake** [<sup>c</sup>the Sea of Galilee]. **A great crowd gathered around him, so he sat down in a boat near the shore. All the people stayed on the shore close to the water.**

2 **Jesus taught them many things, using stories** [parables; see 3:23]. **He said,**

3 **“Listen! A farmer** [sower] **went out to plant** [sow] **his seed.**

4 **While he was planting** [sowing], **some seed fell by the road** [along the path], **and the birds came and ate it up.**

5 **Some seed fell on rocky ground where there wasn't much dirt. That seed grew** [sprang up] **very fast, because the ground was not deep.**

6 **But when the sun rose, the plants dried up** [were scorched and withered] **because**

they did not have deep roots.

<sup>7</sup> Some other seed fell among thorny weeds, which grew and choked the good plants. So those plants did not produce a crop [grain].

<sup>8</sup> Some other seed fell on good ground and began to grow. It got taller and produced a crop [grain]. Some plants made thirty times more, some made sixty times more, and some made a hundred times more.”

<sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said, “Let those with ears use them and listen!” [“Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.”]

**JESUS TELLS WHY HE USED STORIES** (4:10–12; Matt. 13:10–17; Luke 8:9–10)

<sup>10</sup> Later, when Jesus was alone, the twelve apostles and others around him asked him about the stories [parables; see 3:23].

<sup>11</sup> Jesus said, “You can know [To you has been given] the secret about the kingdom of God. But to other people [outsiders] I tell everything by using stories [parables]

<sup>12</sup> so that: ‘They will look and look, but they will not learn [perceive]. They will listen and listen, but they will not understand. If they did learn and understand [Otherwise], they would [might] come back [return] to me and be forgiven [Is. 6:9–10; cf. Is. 43:8; Jer. 5:21; Ezek. 12:2].’”

**JESUS EXPLAINS THE SEED STORY** (4:13–20; Matt. 13:18–23; Luke 8:11–15)

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to his followers [Lthem], “Don’t you understand this story [parable]? If you don’t, how will you understand any story [parable; see 3:23]?”

<sup>14</sup> The farmer plants God’s message in

people [LThe sower sows the word].  
15 **Sometimes the ·teaching** [word; message] **falls ·on the road** [along the path]. **This is like the people who hear the ·teaching of God** [word; message], **but Satan quickly comes and takes away the ·teaching** [word; message] **that was ·planted** [sown] **in them.**

16 **Others are like the seed ·planted** [sown] **on rocky ground. They hear the ·teaching** [word; message] **and quickly accept it with joy.**

17 **·But since they don't allow the teaching to go deep into their lives** [LBut since they have no root in themselves], **they keep it only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the ·teaching they accepted** [word; message], **they quickly ·give up** [fall away; stumble].

18 **Others are like the seed planted among the thorny weeds. They hear the ·teaching** [word; message],

19 **but the worries of this ·life** [world; age], **the ·temptation** [deceitfulness; seduction] **of wealth, and ·many other evil desires** [desires for other things] **·keep the teaching from growing and producing fruit in their lives** [Lcome in and choke the word, making it unfruitful].

20 **Others are like the seed ·planted** [sown] **in the good ground. They hear the ·teaching** [word; message] **and accept it. Then they grow and produce ·fruit** [a crop]—**sometimes thirty times more, sometimes sixty times more, and sometimes a hundred times more.”**