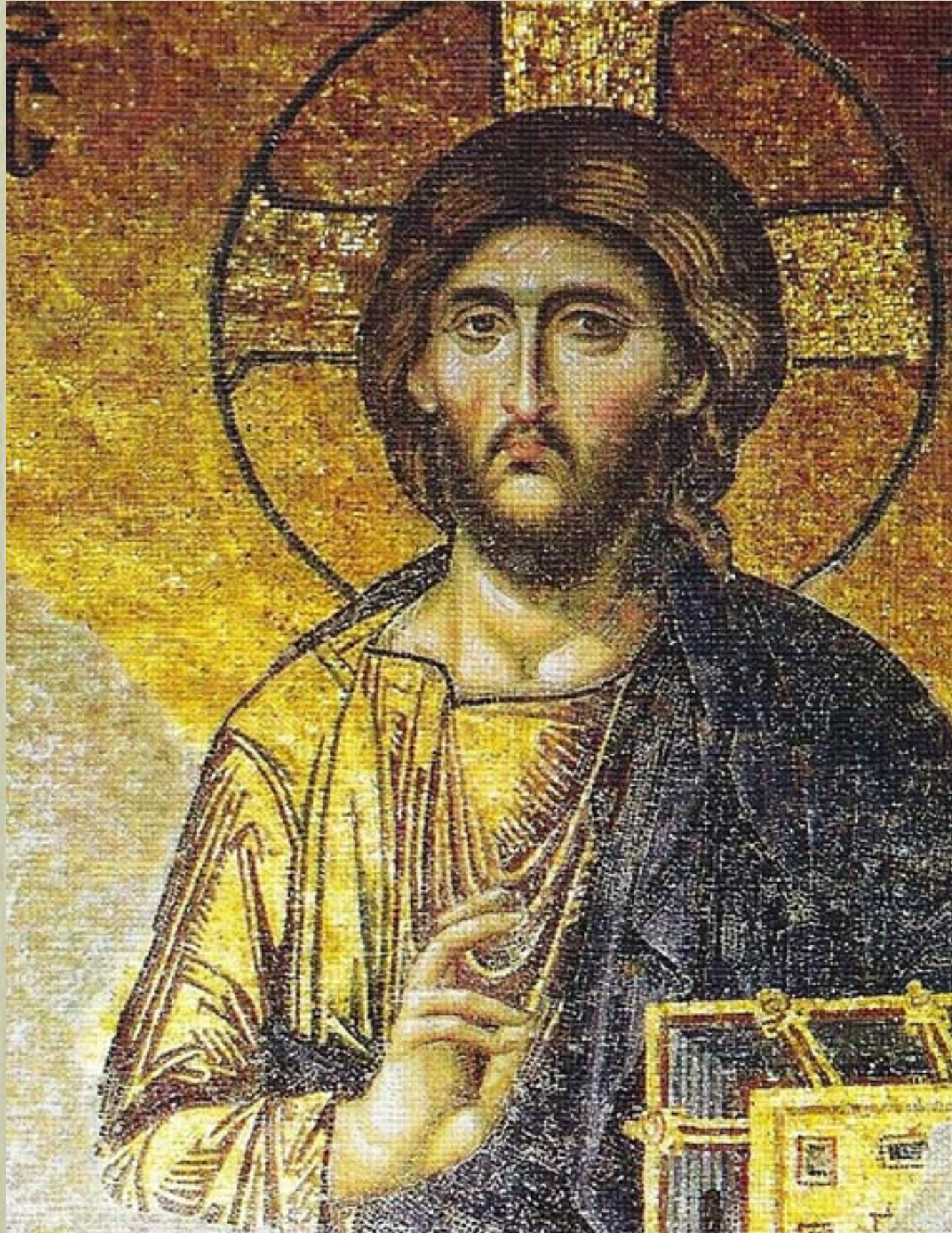


10. Matthew 13:54 – 16:28



A: Jesus forms a covenant community of those learning to believe and coming to understand : Matthew 13:54 - 17:27

The main focus of this section is on Jesus and on how his disciples gradually came to know him.

Already: Suffering Servant (8:16-17)

Son of Man (8:18-22)

Physician (9:9-13)

Bridegroom (9:14-17)

Now:

The builder's son (13:5)

The Second Moses (feeding in the desert 14:13-21; 15:32-39; 16:8-10)

The Lord, walking on the waters (14:27)

The 'Son of God' who saves (14:33)

The 'Son of David'(15:22)

'Messiah, Son of the living God'(16:16)

The 'Son of Man'(16:27), suffering now with those who suffer (16:21; 17:12,22), but vindicated by God (16:21; 17:22), and he will take to himself all who have listened to him and lived as he lived (16:27)

The beloved Son of God, with whom God is well pleased. The disciples must listen to him (17:5)

Matthew 13:54-58 (Mark 6:1-6)

Jesus came to his hometown and began to teach the people in **their** synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is not this the **builder’s** son? Is not his mother called Mary (Μαριὰμ)? And are not his **brothers** James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his **sisters** with us? Where then did this man get all this?” And they took offence (ἐσκανδαλίζοντο) at him.

But Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house.” And he did not do many deeds of power there (but see Mark 6:5), because of their unbelief.

Matthew 14:1-12 (Mark 6:14-29)

Herod [Antipas] the ruler heard reports about Jesus; and he said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist; he has been raised from the dead, *and for this reason these powers are at work in him.*” For Herod had arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because John had been telling him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.”(cf. Lev 18:16; 20:21) *Though Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the crowd, because they regarded him as a prophet.* But when Herod’s birthday came, the *daughter of Herodias* danced before the company, and she pleased Herod so much that he promised on oath to grant her whatever she might ask. Prompted by her mother, she said, “Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter.” The king was grieved, yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he commanded it to be given; he sent and **had John** beheaded in the prison. The head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, who brought it to her mother. His disciples came and took the body and buried it; *then they went and told Jesus.*

Matthew 14:13-14 (Mark 6:30-34)

When Jesus heard it (what had happened to John),
he withdrew from there in a boat alone to a deserted place.
And when the crowds heard it,
they followed him by land from the cities.
And when he got out, he saw a large crowd
and he had compassion [ἐσπλαγχνίσθη] for them
and cured their sick.

Matthew now presents us with two related scenes: the feeding of the multitude and walking on the water.

1. Is he sharing remembered events, remembered because they are so extraordinary? To this point we have been watch 'what Jesus did and said. Are the continuing to witness that?

Question: What is the meaning of these events?

The Jesus we see cannot be said to be like us.

In over 2,000 years of Christian history we don't repeat what we see here. Is this the way God acts in our world?

2. Or is this a dramatic presentation to take us to the deep meaning of what Jesus was and said and did?

There are clear links with the story of the crossing of the Red Sea and the Manna in the desert. Seen this way we see truths that are central to the life of Jesus' disciples still today.

Matthew 14:15-18

(Mark 6:35-38)

When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

Jesus said to them, “You give them something to eat, yourselves.” They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.”

see 2 Kings 4:42-44, Elisha



Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.

Taking the five loaves and the two fish,

he looked up to heaven, and blessed

and broke the loaves,

and gave them to his disciples

and the disciples gave them to the crowds. All ate and were filled (Psalm 78:29); and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Matthew 26:26

Taking a loaf of bread,

and blessing,

he broke it,

and giving it to his disciples

he said: "Take! Eat!

This is my body."

Isaiah 55:2-3

‘Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant.’

2 Corinthians 9:8

‘God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance,
so that by always having enough of everything,
you may share abundantly in every good work.’

John 15:5

‘Apart from me you can do nothing.’

Matthew 14:22-27 (Mark 6:45-50)

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to **pray**. When evening came, he was there alone.

By this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

In the fourth watch of the night he came walking toward them on the sea.

But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, **it is I** (Exodus 3:14 *egô eimi*); do not be afraid.”

Isaiah 43:1-2

‘Thus says YHWH,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.’

Isaiah 51:10

‘Was it not you who dried up the sea,
the waters of the great deep;
who made the depths of the sea a way
for the redeemed to cross over?’

Exodus 15:19

‘The Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.’

Psalms 77:16,19

When the waters saw you, O God,
when the waters saw you, they were afraid;
the very deep trembled.

Your way was through the sea,
your path, through the mighty waters;
yet your footprints were unseen.

Job 9:8

You stretched out the heavens
and trampled the waves of the Sea

Matthew 14:28-33

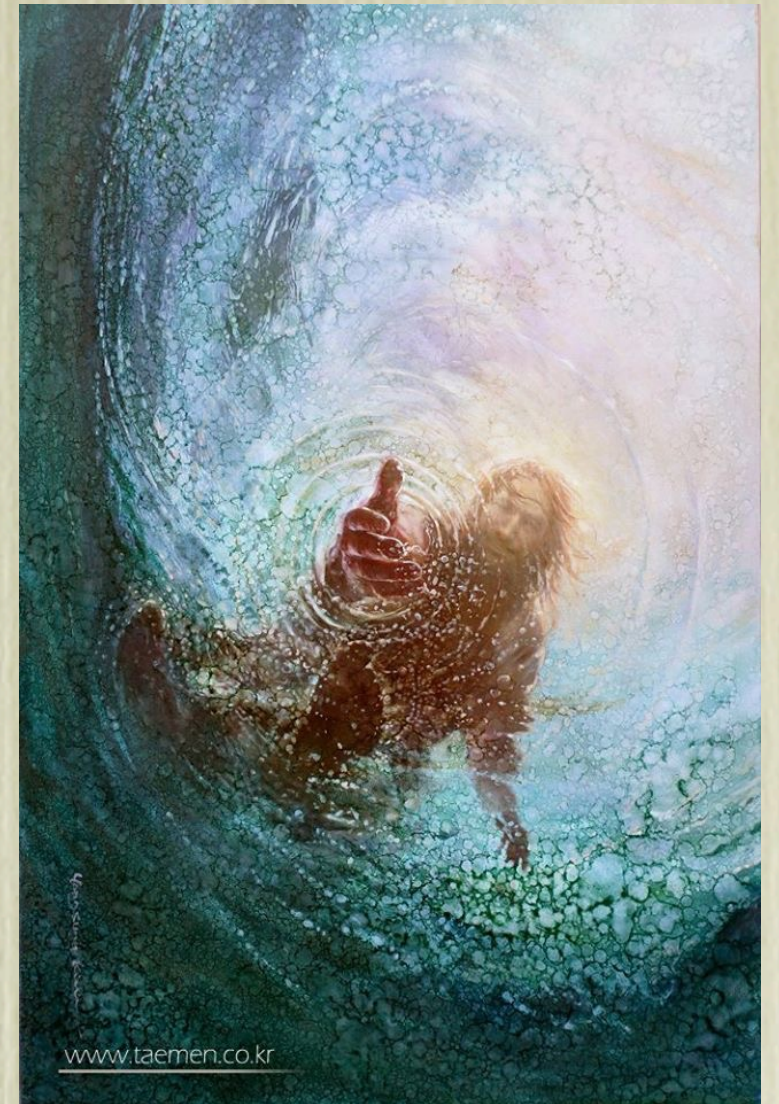
Peter said, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' Jesus said, 'Come.'

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

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

Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

Those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'



Matthew 14:34-36 : Mark 6:53-56

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

After the people of that place recognized him,
they sent word throughout the region
and brought all who were sick to him,
and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak;
and all who touched it were healed.

Matthew 15:1-9 (Mark 7:1-13)

Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands before they eat.” He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of **your** (Pharisaic) **tradition**? For God said, ‘Honour your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.’ But you say that whoever tells father or mother, ‘Whatever support you might have had from me is given to God,’ then that person need not honour the father. So, for the sake of your tradition, you make void the word of God. You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied rightly about you when he said: ‘This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’” (Isaiah 29:11-12)

Matthew 15:10-20 (Mark 7:14-23)

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “**Listen and understand**: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” *Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.”* But Peter said to him, “Explain this **parable** to us.” Then he said, “Are you also still without **understanding**? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, *false witness*, slander. These are what defile a person, *but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.*”

Matthew 15:21-28 (Mark 7:24-30)

Jesus left that place and **went away** to the district of Tyre *and Sidon*. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out *and started shouting*, “*Have **mercy** on me, Lord, Son of David*; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” *But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel* (compare Matthew 10:6).” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the little dogs (household pets).” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the little crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “*Woman, great is your **faith**!* Let it be done for you as you wish.” *And her daughter was healed instantly.*

Matthew 15:29-31

After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down.

Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing.



And they praised the God of Israel.

Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.” The disciples said to him, “Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?” Jesus asked them, “How many loaves have you?” They said, “Seven, and a few small fish.” Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all of them ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. Those who had eaten were four thousand men, *besides women and children*. After sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

Matthew 16:1-4 (Mark 8:11-13)

The Pharisees *and Sadducees* (see 3:7) came, and to test Jesus they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. He answered them, “*When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah* (see 12:39).” Then he left them *and went away*.

Matthew 16:5-10 (Mark 8:13-21)

When the disciples reached the other side, they had forgotten to bring any bread. Jesus said to them, “Watch out, and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees *and Sadducees*.” They said to one another, “It is because we have brought no bread.” Becoming aware of it, Jesus said, “*You of little faith*, why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? (14:15-21) Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? (15:32-39).

Matthew 16:11-12

How could you fail to perceive that I was not speaking about bread? Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees!” Then they understood that he had not told them to beware of the yeast of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Matthew 16:13-16

(Mark 8:27-29)

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi,



he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others *Jeremiah* or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, ‘**You** are the Messiah, *the Son of the living God.*’ (see 14:33)

Matthew 16:17-20

(compare 13:16 blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.)

Jesus answered him, 'Blessed [μακάριος] are you, Simon son of Jonah!
For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you,
but my Father in heaven (see 11:25-30).

(Ephesians 2:20; Rev 21:14)

And I tell you, you are Peter [Πέτρος], and on this rock [πέτρα]
I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

see John 21:15-17

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind
on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth
will be loosed in heaven.' (compare 18:18 - plural version) (see 23:13)

Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the
Messiah (Mark 8:30).

The Son of Man must suffer, die and rise again (1)

Matthew 16:21 (Mark 8:31)

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and **on the third day** be raised.

‘He was raised **on the third day**
in accordance with the scriptures’ (1 Corinthians 15:4).

‘and three days later rise again’ (Mark 8:31).

Hosea 6:1-2

‘Come, let us return to YHWH;
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.
After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.’

Exodus 9:9-16

‘YHWH said to Moses, “I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after ... “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes and prepare for **the third day**, because **on the third day** Yahweh will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. You shall set limits for the people all around, saying: Be careful not to go up the mountain or to touch the edge of it. Any who touch the mountain shall be put to death. ... So Moses went down from the mountain to the people. He consecrated the people, and they washed their clothes. He said to the people, “Prepare for **the third day** ...” On the morning of **the third day** there was thunder and lightning, as well as a thick cloud on the mountain, and a blast of a ram’s horn [shofar] so loud that all the people in the camp trembled.’

The Son of Man must suffer, die and rise again (1)

Matthew 16:22-23 (Mark 8:33-33)

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “*God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.*” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! (see 4:10)
You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

We find life by following Jesus : Matthew 16:24-28 (Mark 8:34 - 9:1)

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. (see 10:39)

For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

For the **Son of Man is to come** with his angels in the glory of his Father, and *then he will repay everyone for what has been done.*

Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see *the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.*”