

**Psalm 34**

- <sup>1</sup> I will extol the LORD at all times;  
his praise will always be on my lips.
- <sup>2</sup> I will glory in the LORD;  
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
- <sup>3</sup> Glorify the LORD with me;  
let us exalt his name together.
- <sup>4</sup> I sought the LORD, and he answered me;  
he delivered me from all my fears.
- <sup>5</sup> Those who look to him are radiant;  
their faces are never covered with shame.
- <sup>6</sup> This poor man called, and the LORD heard him;  
he saved him out of all his troubles.
- <sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,  
and he delivers them.
- <sup>8</sup> Taste and see that the LORD is good;  
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
- <sup>9</sup> Fear the LORD, you his holy people,  
for those who fear him lack nothing.
- <sup>10</sup> The lions may grow weak and hungry,  
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.
- <sup>11</sup> Come, my children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- <sup>12</sup> Whoever of you loves life  
and desires to see many good days,  
<sup>13</sup> keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from telling lies.
- <sup>14</sup> Turn from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it.
- <sup>15</sup> The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,  
and his ears are attentive to their cry;  
<sup>16</sup> but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil,  
to blot out their name from the earth.
- <sup>17</sup> The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them;  
he delivers them from all their troubles.
- <sup>18</sup> The LORD is close to the brokenhearted  
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
- <sup>19</sup> The righteous person may have many troubles,  
but the LORD delivers him from them all;  
<sup>20</sup> he protects all his bones,  
not one of them will be broken.
- <sup>21</sup> Evil will slay the wicked;  
the foes of the righteous will be condemned.
- <sup>22</sup> The LORD will rescue his servants;  
no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

### **The Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40)**

<sup>34</sup> Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. <sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

### **Parable of the Net (Matthew 13:47-50)**

<sup>47</sup> “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. <sup>48</sup> When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. <sup>49</sup> This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### **Treasures in Heaven (Matthew 6:19-24)**

<sup>19</sup> “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>22</sup> “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy,<sup>[a]</sup> your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But if your eyes are unhealthy,<sup>[b]</sup> your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

<sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

### **Calling of Matthew (Matthew 9:9-13)**

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

<sup>12</sup> On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>13</sup> But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’<sup>[a]</sup> For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

### **The Day and Hour Unknown (Mark 13:32-37)**

<sup>32</sup> “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. <sup>34</sup> It’s like a man going away:

He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

<sup>35</sup> “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back— whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. <sup>36</sup> If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

### **Love for Enemies (Matthew 5:43-48)**

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor<sup>[a]</sup> and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

### **Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25:19-34)**

<sup>19</sup> This is the account of the family line of Abraham’s son Isaac.

Abraham became the father of Isaac, <sup>20</sup> and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram<sup>[a]</sup> and sister of Laban the Aramean.

<sup>21</sup> Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. <sup>22</sup> The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, “Why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the LORD.

<sup>23</sup> The LORD said to her,

*“Two nations are in your womb,  
and two peoples from within you will be separated;  
one people will be stronger than the other,  
and the older will serve the younger.”*

<sup>24</sup> When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. <sup>25</sup> The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>26</sup> After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob.<sup>[c]</sup> Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

<sup>27</sup> The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. <sup>28</sup> Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

<sup>29</sup> Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. <sup>30</sup> He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!” (That is why he was also called Edom.<sup>[d]</sup>)

<sup>31</sup> Jacob replied, “First sell me your birthright.”

<sup>32</sup> “Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the birthright to me?”

<sup>33</sup> But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

<sup>34</sup> Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.