

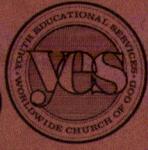
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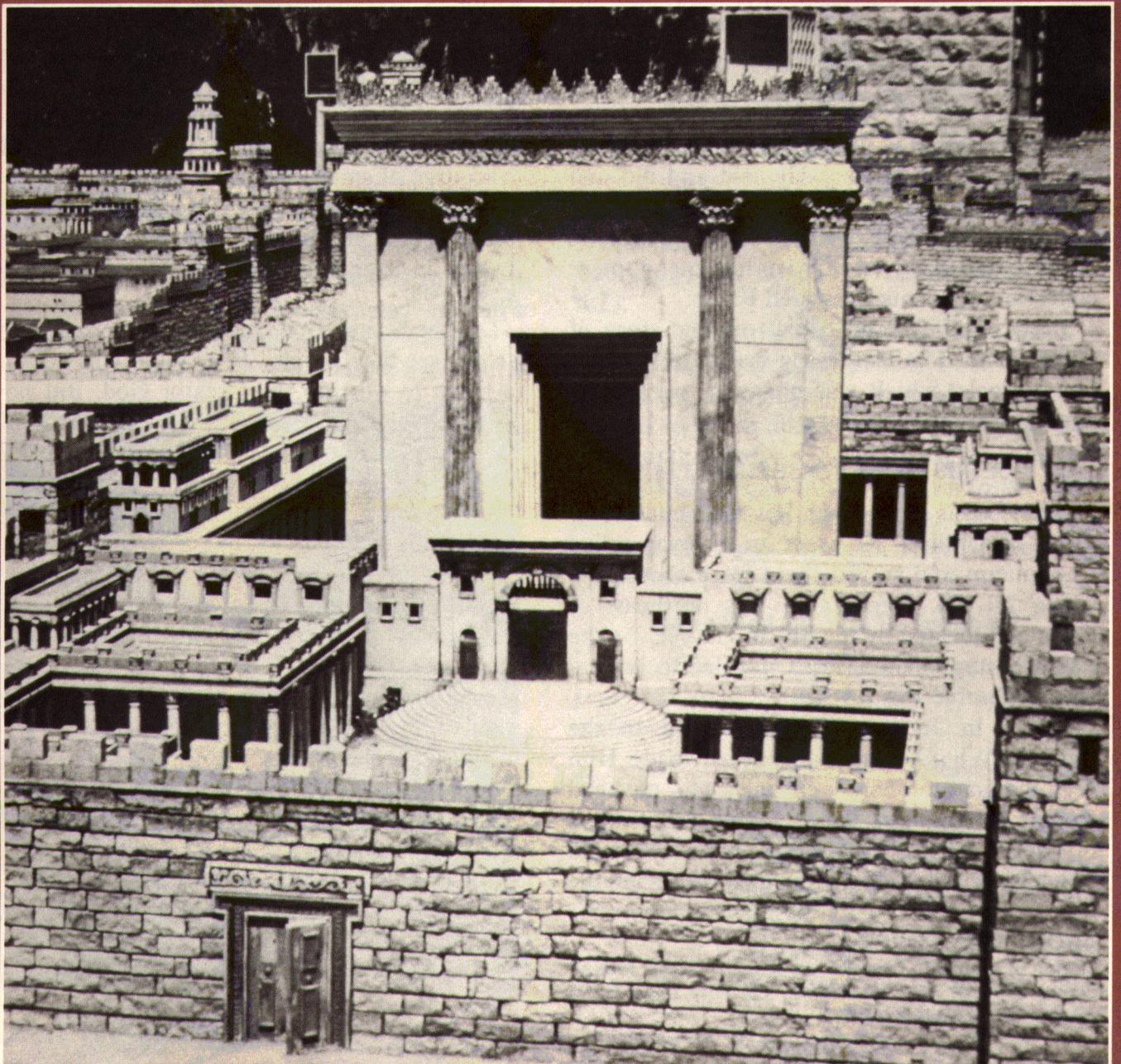
LEVEL 8

BIBLE

LESSONS



LESSON 4



The Beginning of Christ's Ministry

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# THE BEGINNING OF CHRIST'S MINISTRY

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**T**he life and teachings of Jesus Christ are the subject material of these Level 8 YES lessons. The information they contain is from the official biographies of Christ's life—the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

As you study the life and teachings of Christ this year, focus on what He said and did and the *reasons* behind His actions and words. Concentrate on how it all applies to you. Don't let the biography of Christ become a mere collection of events unrelated to you.

Let's proceed now to pick up the story of Christ's life. The last lesson ended with Jesus' first miracle, which was changing water into wine at the marriage feast.

## JESUS GOES TO JERUSALEM

After Jesus performed His first miracle in Cana of Galilee, He went to a town called Capernaum and stayed there for a short time (John 2:1-12). Capernaum was northeast of Cana and located by the Sea of Galilee. As the Passover approached, Jesus traveled to Jerusalem to observe this festival.

While in Jerusalem, Christ went to the Temple. What He saw and heard made Him very indignant! There were men who changed Roman money into Jewish money for Temple offerings. Then there were those who sold animals for sacrifices. These men had made the

whole system of offering sacrifices “big business”—and right in the courts of the Temple of God!

So when Jesus, the very Son of God, saw these men showing utter contempt for the House of God by making His Father's House a “house of merchandise,” He immediately made a scourge of small cords and drove the animals out of the Temple. Then He poured out the money-changers' money and overturned their tables in righteous indignation (John 2:13-17).

As the Son of God, Jesus had a perfect right to cleanse the Temple. After all, it was built as a place to worship the Creator God. But how did the Jews react to what Christ did? Read what they said in John 2:18 and fill in the blank: “Then answered the Jews and said unto Him, What \_\_\_\_\_ shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?” (“Sign” here means proof or evidence.) In essence, these Jews were saying, “What proof can you show us that you have the right to do what you just did?” Instead of seeing how wrong they were and accepting the correction, they challenged His right to give it.

Christ replied, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). Jesus was referring to the fact that He would be killed and resurrected back to life after three days and three nights—proving He really was the Son of God; and as God's son, He had the right to cleanse the Temple.

But the Jews misunderstood what Jesus told them about His coming death, burial and resurrection. They thought He was talking

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## ABOUT OUR COVER . . .

Model of Herod's Temple, as it might have looked during Christ's day, is part of the Holy Land Hotel display in Jerusalem.

Photo by James Capo

about the literal Temple of God in Jerusalem. Therefore what Jesus had done in the Temple and what He was teaching were the main topics of conversation in Jerusalem during that Passover. Many people at this feast also believed in His name when they saw the miracles He performed (verse 23).

### NICODEMUS VISITS CHRIST

There was a high-ranking Pharisee named Nicodemus who was also greatly impressed by what Jesus had said and done. He admitted that he and many other Jewish rulers knew that Jesus was a teacher sent by God (John 3:1-2). What Christ did proved to these rulers that God the Father had sent Him.

In the course of His conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus explained the purpose of human life. He said that man must be “born again” of the Spirit of God in order to enter the Kingdom or Family of God. The fact that man must be born again to become part of God’s Kingdom puzzled Nicodemus. He thought it meant one must enter his mother’s womb a



Courtesy Israel Government Tourist Office

The Sea of Galilee. Jesus called His first disciples from among its fishermen.

*second time* and be born again physically! (John 3:3-4.)

Christ proceeded to explain that a man must be born of *God’s Spirit*. Thus when born again he will be composed of Spirit. He will no longer be a physical human being, composed of flesh and blood (verses 5-8). But Nicodemus still did not understand.

Jesus then told Nicodemus that God loved mankind so much He would give His only begotten Son, Jesus, so that those who believe in and obey Him need not perish, but have everlasting life because Christ was to pay the death penalty for all mankind.

### JESUS DEPARTS FOR GALILEE

After the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread, Jesus remained in the region of Judea with His disciples (John 3:22). He taught the people and baptized them, though the actual baptizing was done by His disciples (John 4:2).

Later, John the Baptist was imprisoned by Herod, the governor of Judea (Luke 3:19-20). Herod put John in prison for boldly telling him he was living in adultery and disobeying God. Jesus undoubtedly realized that if He remained in the area, Herod might try to imprison Him also. So He wisely departed for the region of Galilee—the area in which He had grown up (Matthew 4:12).

### How Well Do You Remember?

Write TRUE in the blank if the statement is true; write FALSE in the blank if the statement is false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Jesus did not observe the Passover.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Jesus cleansed the Temple of God because ungodly men had made it a “house of merchandise.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Nicodemus admitted that he and many other Jewish rulers knew that Jesus was sent from God.

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Jesus said that we cannot enter into the Kingdom or Family of God unless we are born again.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 5. When a person is born again, he is still a physical flesh and blood human being.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Jesus left for Galilee after John the Baptist was imprisoned.

### THE TRUE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

The word “gospel” means good news. What Jesus Christ preached during His ministry was a message of good news. But good news about what? Notice Mark 1:14-15: “Now after that John [the Baptist] was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: \_\_\_\_\_ ye, and \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.”

The good news Jesus brought was not just a collection of unrelated nice thoughts and sayings. Rather, the Gospel message He preached was about the Kingdom of God and how mortal man can be born into it—born into God’s immortal spirit Family, to rule with Him for eternity. What better news could there be than the knowledge of what the real purpose of life is, and how to fulfill that wonderful purpose!

All of the laws and principles Jesus expounded, directly relate to fulfilling the purpose for which we were born. They are intended to help us develop the righteous character of God, so He can safely entrust us with sonship in His universe-ruling Family when we are born again. As you study the teachings of Jesus Christ, think of how to apply them in your life so you can be developing Godly character.

### JESUS’ HOMECOMING

Upon returning to the region of Galilee, Jesus went to His hometown of Nazareth. And as it was His regular practice, He attended services in the synagogue on the weekly

Sabbath, the *seventh day* of the week (Luke 4:16). Jesus read a portion of the book of Isaiah which described what the Christ—the Anointed One, or Messiah—would do. After He finished the reading, He announced to the congregation, “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears” (Luke 4:21). In effect, Jesus told them He was the Messiah.

But many of the people were skeptical. They had known Jesus since He was a small child. “Does Jesus really expect us to believe He is the Messiah?” they wondered. The townspeople of Nazareth allowed their familiarity with Jesus and His family to cause them to disbelieve that He actually was the Son of God.

Perceiving the congregation’s skepticism, He proceeded to explain that no miracles had been performed in Nazareth because of their lack of belief in Him. Jesus said that “No prophet is accepted in his own country” (verse 24). His words so enraged the people of Nazareth that they tried to throw Him over the edge of the hill on which the city was built (Luke 4:28-29). But Jesus miraculously escaped their wrath. After this incident He moved to the city of Capernaum by the Sea of Galilee where He preached powerfully (verses 30-32).

### FISHERS OF MEN

One day Jesus preached to a large group of people near the lake of Gennesaret—the Sea of Galilee (Luke 5:1-2). Simon (Peter) and several other fishermen—including Andrew his brother (Mark 1:16) and James and John, their partners—were washing their nets after having fished all night and caught nothing. Jesus approached Peter and asked to go out in his boat a short distance offshore. Peter complied with Christ’s request. While sitting in the boat, Christ taught the people who stood on the shore (Luke 5:3).

When Jesus finished speaking to the multitude, He told Peter to let the fishing nets down into the sea farther out from shore. Although Peter had caught nothing that night



Melton Photo Service

Fishermen of the Sea of Galilee using nets today as in Christ's time.

and therefore didn't expect to catch anything now, he let the nets down as Jesus said (Luke 5:4-5).

To Peter's amazement, they caught so many fish that the nets began to break from the great weight! He and his brother Andrew struggled to pull up the nets. Frantically, they called to John and James to come and help. They quickly maneuvered their boat over and like Andrew and Simon, they also began to unload the huge catch into their vessel (Luke 5:6-7).

"We're sinking!" yelled Peter as he realized they had taken in more fish than the boats could hold.

"Don't be afraid," replied Christ. "Your boats won't sink. I performed this miracle to show you how big is the task of preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to mankind. I want you to help me in this job just like John and James helped you pull in the fish. I want you to become *fishers of men* and help me 'catch' men for the Family of God. I want you to devote all your time and energies to helping me in this great work (Luke 5:8-11).

Andrew, Peter, John and James thought about the miracle they had just witnessed. They also remembered when John the Baptist

had identified Jesus as the Lamb of God—the Messiah (John 1:36, 40-41). So "they forsook all and followed him" (Luke 5:11). From then on for the rest of their lives, they were in the full-time service of Jesus Christ.

### JESUS HEALS MANY

On the Sabbath days Jesus went into the synagogue at Capernaum and taught the people (Mark 1:21-22). During one Sabbath service, Jesus commanded an unclean spirit—a demon—to come out of a man who was possessed by it. Then after the service, He healed the mother of Peter's wife, who was sick with a high fever. After that Sabbath Jesus also healed many of the sick and demon-possessed in the city of Capernaum while the people of the city looked on (Mark 1:23-34).

News of these healings spread rapidly throughout the region of Galilee where Jesus and His disciples were teaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. A man who had a terrible skin disease called leprosy approached Jesus. Notice the account recorded in Luke 5:12-13:

"And it came to pass, when he [Jesus] was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who

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seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought Him, saying, Lord, if thou \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ make me clean. And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, \_\_\_\_\_: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him.” This leper believed that Christ could heal him if it was His will to do so. It is Christ’s desire to heal us today too when we are sick (James 5:13-15; I Peter 2:24).

A few days later, Jesus returned to Capernaum and preached the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to the people who came to Him (Mark 2:1-12). Among the Jews gathered to hear Him were Pharisees and scribes from throughout Galilee and Judea (Luke 5:17-26). They considered themselves expert teachers of the laws God gave through Moses.

While Jesus taught, a paralyzed man was carried on a bed by four of his friends to Jesus so he could be healed. Because of the great crowd in and around the house where Christ was, they climbed on top of the roof of the house, tore off several roofing tiles, and lowered the paralyzed man and his bed right into the room where Jesus was speaking! Christ was amazed at the faith shown by their resourcefulness. The paralyzed man and his friends knew Jesus could heal him, and were not going to be prevented from seeing Him. Nothing would turn them away!

“Your sins are forgiven,” said Jesus to the paralyzed man when He saw their faith. Expressions of shocked disbelief appeared on the faces of the Pharisees and scribes. They self-righteously glanced back and forth among themselves. “He blasphemeth, for only God can forgive sins,” they reasoned.

Jesus perceived what they were thinking. “Why do you think evil?” He said (Matthew 9:4). “Is it really any easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ than to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed, and walk’? Healing *is* the forgiveness of physical sins. I told him his sins were forgiven so that you would know that I have the power to forgive sins” (Mark 2:8-11).

Christ then turned to the paralyzed man and

said, “Arise, take up your bed, and go home.” The people were amazed and praised God for the miraculous healing.

### How Well Do You Remember?

Circle the letter of the best answer for each question.

1. What does the word “gospel” mean?
  - A. Good news.
  - B. Bad news.
  - C. Warning.
  - D. All of the above.
  - E. None of the above.
2. What Gospel did Jesus Christ preach?
  - A. The Gospel of the Golden Rule.
  - B. The Gospel about His life.
  - C. The Gospel of the Kingdom of God.
  - D. All of the above.
  - E. None of the above.
3. For what reason did Jesus say no miracles had been performed in Nazareth, His hometown?
  - A. Because of the peoples’ great faith in Him.
  - B. Because they gladly heard what He had to say.
  - C. Because they had no need for any miracles.
  - D. All of the above.
  - E. None of the above.
4. Which four disciples did Jesus specifically call to become “fishers of men”?
  - A. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.
  - B. Andrew, Peter, James, John.
  - C. Andrew, Peter, Matthew, John.
  - D. All of the above.
  - E. None of the above.
5. Which statement about healing is true?
  - A. God wants to heal us when we are sick.
  - B. Healing is the forgiveness of physical sins.
  - C. God will heal us today if we believe He can.
  - D. All of the above statements are true.
  - E. None of the above statements are true.

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## MATTHEW CHOSEN AS A DISCIPLE

Sometime later after healing the man sick with palsy, Jesus met a publican, or tax collector, named Matthew (also called Levi—Luke 5:27), who was collecting taxes for the Roman government. He told Matthew to follow Him. Matthew immediately began to follow Christ (Matthew 9:9).

Matthew invited Jesus to a feast at his house (Luke 5:29). Many of Matthew's friends, who also were publicans, were invited to the dinner. Some came because they wanted to learn more about what Jesus taught; some came merely out of curiosity; and others came just to please Matthew. But all were amazed at what they heard!

When the scribes and Pharisees learned that Jesus had dined with publicans and sinners, they tried to discredit Him in the eyes of His disciples. They asked them, "Would a righteous man of God eat with sinners—people known by all to be immoral, dishonest, and unrighteous?"

When Jesus heard what they had said, He told them, "A person in good health does not need a physician—only those who are sick need one. I have come to show mercy to those who need me. I have not come to call the righteous who are spiritually well, but rather the sinners unto repentance—those who are spiritually sick" (Matthew 9:11-13).

## SABBATH CONTROVERSIES

The Pharisees and scribes—the religious leaders during Christ's earthly ministry—felt that their authority over the people was being threatened by Christ's teachings. Jesus continually pointed out the errors in their doctrines and traditions. Instead of accepting the correction from the very Son of God and seeking the truth, they tried to maintain their positions of leadership among the people by attempting to discredit Him. Three different occasions are recorded during which they attempted to discredit Jesus by accusing Him of being a Sabbath-breaker.

Notice the account of the first of these occasions. It is found in John chapter 5. Read the whole chapter. On this Holy Day, Jesus healed a man of an infirmity from which he had suffered for 38 years. The religious leaders immediately persecuted Jesus because they considered healing on the Sabbath day to be work. They also accused Christ of causing the man to violate the Sabbath, because carrying one's bed was considered as work by Jewish law. (Note that this was Jewish tradition—not a command of God given to the Children of Israel during the time of Moses.)

Jesus told the Jews that He did only what His Father did. He could do no spiritual works of Himself, so the miracles He performed were actually done by the Father through Him (verses 19-20). Jesus proceeded to show the Jews that they dishonored the very God they claimed to worship when they dishonored the Son whom God the Father had sent (verse 23).

Notice that the works which Christ did were witness to the fact that the Father had sent Him. Turn to John 5:36 and fill in the blanks. "... for the \_\_\_\_\_ which the Father hath given me to finish, the same \_\_\_\_\_ that I do, bear \_\_\_\_\_ of me, that the \_\_\_\_\_ hath \_\_\_\_\_." Jesus further told the Jews that if they really believed what Moses wrote, they would also believe His words (verses 46-47).

On another Sabbath Jesus and His disciples walked through a field of grain. His hungry disciples began to pick the kernels and eat them (Matthew 12:1-2). The Pharisees said, "Your disciples are breaking the Sabbath by picking the kernels and eating them. Remember what God said to our fathers through Ezra and Nehemiah in admonishing us to keep God's commandments lest we be led into captivity again for our Sabbath-breaking!" They were hoping to arouse sentiments against Christ.

Jesus replied, "Have you not read what David and his men did when they were hungry? They ate the shewbread from the



**JERUSALEM at the time of Christ**

Map by Ken Tunell

house of God which only the priests were allowed to eat. Have you not also read that the priests work while performing their duties on the Sabbath, and yet they are guiltless? Furthermore, I, as the One who originally made the Sabbath, am *Lord* of the Sabbath, therefore I determine how it shall be observed.”

On the third occasion, the Pharisees again accused Jesus of being a Sabbath-breaker. While Jesus was teaching in the synagogue, they watched Him to see if He would heal on

the Sabbath day so they could use this as an accusation against Him (Luke 6:6-7). A man with a withered hand was in the synagogue at the time.

Jesus knew what they were thinking and said: “If any of you had a sheep that fell into a pit on the Sabbath, wouldn’t you lift it out? A human life is obviously worth more than a sheep’s. Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath, or to do evil? To save a life, or to kill?” (Matthew 12:11-12; Mark 3:4.)

Showing that it obviously was lawful to do

good on the Sabbath, Christ told the man with the withered hand to stand up and stretch it forth. Upon doing so, his hand was completely healed! Enraged over what Jesus had done, the Pharisees left the synagogue and began to discuss possible ways they might be able to kill Him, thereby silencing Him once and for all (Matthew 12:13-14).

### CHRIST CHOOSES THE TWELVE APOSTLES

By now, a great multitude from Galilee followed Jesus. But Jesus chose only twelve disciples in order to personally teach them for three and one-half years. They would need to be thoroughly trained to continue the work which He began, after His crucifixion and ascension into heaven. These twelve were to be the foundation of the New Testament Church, along with the Old Testament prophets and Christ Himself, who is the “chief cornerstone” (Eph. 2:19-20).

It was only after praying to God all night about the selection of the twelve men who would become apostles (Matthew 10:1-2), that Christ chose Simon Peter, Andrew (Peter’s brother), James (the son of Zebedee), John (James’ brother), Philip, Bartholomew (Nathanael), Matthew (Levi), Thomas, James (the son of Alphaeus), Simon the Canaanite (the Zealot), Thaddaeus (Judas, the son of James), and Judas Iscariot (Mark 3:14-19; Luke 6:12-16).

These twelve disciples or “students” were called apostles, since an apostle is one who is sent forth to accomplish a specific commission or duty by the power and authority of God. The twelve original apostles were sent forth by God to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, to heal the sick, and to cast out demons (Mark 3:14-15).

#### How Well Do You Remember?

Write the correct words in the blanks which complete the following statements. Do as many as you can without looking over what you have just read. If you cannot remember some of the

words, reread the material to find them.

1. The disciple who had been a publican (tax collector) was \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The scribes and \_\_\_\_\_ tried to discredit Jesus by saying that if He were righteous, He would not have eaten with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In Matthew 9:13 Christ told the Pharisees that He did not come to call the righteous to repentance, but to call \_\_\_\_\_ to repentance.
4. The scribes and Pharisees accused Jesus of breaking the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The Jews objected to Christ healing on the Sabbath because they considered healing to be \_\_\_\_\_.
6. According to Christ’s statement in John 5:36, the \_\_\_\_\_ which Christ did bore witness (testified) that the Father had sent Him.
7. Christ told the Pharisees that when they dishonored Him, they dishonored \_\_\_\_\_ who had sent Him.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ is Lord of the Sabbath day (Matthew 12:8).
9. “It is lawful to do \_\_\_\_\_ on the Sabbath,” Christ said in Matthew 12:12.
10. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a student—one who is learning from another.
11. An \_\_\_\_\_ is one who is sent forth by God with a specific commission or duty to perform.
12. List the twelve apostles:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### WHAT IS REAL HAPPINESS?

What is the source of true happiness? A motorcycle? New clothes? A dog? A real friend? Living in a different place? None of these are the source of the happiness Jesus talked about. Jesus taught that real happiness comes from living God’s way of life which is based on His *law of love*—the way of “give,”

of outgoing concern for others (Matthew 22:36-40).

Shortly after selecting His twelve disciples, Jesus took them up into a mountain and taught them what they needed to do in order to live God's way and be blessed with the happiness and joy that comes from God. These instructions are found in Matthew 5, 6, and 7 and in Luke 6:20-49. Read these Scriptures in your Bible and complete the following quotes.

Matthew 5:3—"Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_: for theirs is the \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven." Jesus said that we would be blessed if we have the right attitude—if we are humble and teachable. Those whom God has called into His Church—those who repent of their sins and receive the Holy Spirit of God—will be born into the Family of God at the resurrection of the dead if they have grown in grace and knowledge, and if they have endured to the end (II Peter 3:18; Matthew 24:13).

Matthew 5:4—"Blessed are they that \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall be \_\_\_\_\_." How can one who is sad and sorrowful over his own sins and the terrible state of this world be happy? He can rejoice in the fact that his sins are forgiven when he repents. And he can be comforted by the fact that Jesus Christ is coming soon to bring world peace at last! And finally, a time is coming when there shall not be any more tears, or sorrow, or pain (Revelation 21:4).

Matthew 5:5—"Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_." In today's world "meek" is interpreted to mean "weak." The word meek as Christ used it in Matthew 5:5 means humble, or teachable. True Christians are meek and humble and are willing to be taught by God. And those who have followed Christ's instruction will be given rulership over the earth under Jesus Christ when He comes soon to rule all nations.

Matthew 5:6—"Blessed are they which do

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ after \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall be \_\_\_\_\_." Those who obey God's commandments—which are defined as righteousness (Psalm 119:172)—will be given understanding, peace, happiness, faith, patience and God's love.

Matthew 5:7—"Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall \_\_\_\_\_." Those who are merciful toward others shall obtain mercy from God. If we forgive others for the wrongs they have done to us, then we will receive mercy and forgiveness from God for our sins against Him when we ask for His forgiveness. He who forgives and is forgiven has great peace and happiness.

Matthew 5:8—"Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall \_\_\_\_\_." Those who are "pure in heart" love God because they know His ways are right. Their motives and attitudes are clean, pure and right. They can rejoice and be happy because they know that they shall become God's Sons and see God as He is (I John 3:1-3).

Matthew 5:9—"Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall be called the \_\_\_\_\_." God's spirit-begotten children are peacemakers. They are ultimately to be born into God's own Family.

Matthew 5:10-12—"Blessed are they which are \_\_\_\_\_ sake: for \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall \_\_\_\_\_ you, and \_\_\_\_\_ you, and shall \_\_\_\_\_ all manner of \_\_\_\_\_ against you \_\_\_\_\_, for my sake. \_\_\_\_\_ and be exceedingly glad: for \_\_\_\_\_ is your \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

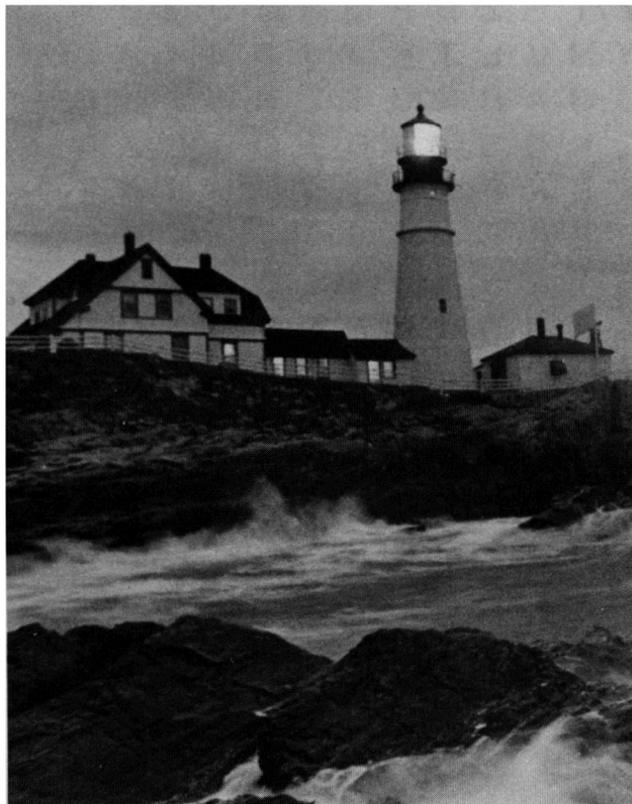
Jesus told His disciples that they should rejoice when they are persecuted for obeying God's laws, and when people tell lies about

them. But how can you possibly be happy and rejoice when others are speaking evil, untrue things about you and making life difficult for you? Christ said we can be happy in spite of these things *if* we keep our eyes fastened on the awesome reward which awaits us in the near future—that of becoming born-again sons of God’s universe-ruling family!

### BECOMING A SHINING LIGHT

It is only natural to want to blend in with the crowd. Most young people don’t want to do anything which might draw attention to themselves and cause them to stand out and be labeled as “different.”

As Jesus continued to instruct His disciples, He told them, “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14). A light is not hidden behind furniture in a room, or under a bushel as Jesus said, but is out in the *open* where it can illuminate objects.



Wide World Photo

Like a beacon piercing the blackness of night, we are to let our “light shine” in a darkened world.

Christ tells His people today to be *lights* to the world. As a “light,” others will see your “good works” (Matthew 5:16)—your acts of obedience to God’s laws. If you keep the Sabbath, attend the Feast of Tabernacles, show respect to your parents and teachers, and obey God’s other laws, your friends and classmates will be aware of it! By your obedience to God’s commandments, you are a witness to your classmates and others of God’s wonderful way of life.

Consider too that when you walk down a path at night with a flashlight, you hold it in front of you. It leads or shows the way. God is giving you the opportunity to become a *leader* in the World Tomorrow—something He is not offering your classmates at this time because their parents are not members of God’s Church.

Have you noticed how a shining light draws your attention while walking out in the dark? If you continue to let your light shine, you may be surprised to find that some of your friends and classmates will come to you for help when they are having problems. You will be able to help them in a way which will not only strengthen them, but also deepen your friendship with them. And perhaps eventually some may even want to learn about God’s way of life from you.

### YOUR NEXT LESSON

This lesson has covered the beginning events of Christ’s ministry: Cleansing the Temple; preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God; selecting the twelve original apostles; healing various people on the Sabbath; and teaching the disciples important principles of God’s way of life.

In the next lesson we will learn what Jesus taught about anger, taking oaths, charity, success and making money. You may be surprised to learn what He tells us to do when we know someone hates us! He’ll teach us about “put-downs,” and about people who try to appear better than others. You won’t want to miss it!

EDITOR IN CHIEF: **Herbert W. Armstrong**

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**BIBLE MEMORY**

Matthew 6:9-15

## WORD SEARCH

Z G C P P L L T N B K Y F W W H J S K P W D J E F I A  
B F R T L S I M O N T H E C A N A A N I T E A L I N Z  
J S U O Q T I G K S N G S A F L D D J K P A M Y I E A  
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S J L U R B R S S P T J U D A S R Y I K D A S A T U K  
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A F J Y D R K L U Z P T I E Y M J L T R J J O H N P L  
S G K U R T I J V T Y L S W C O A H K O T E N W Y J R  
G S G J D H R J W T K G H L O N O S Y J D W O J R A H  
J G S V P O A W W N L N H W P P K F A E Y J F H S W F  
F H R W Q L N G J Z K B L J P E K S A G J T Z G J R S  
L G D B Y O H S U E A D D A H T K S H U T T E G R S S  
K G R C N M G L G H L G E K G E C G J M H S B D G U E  
F J H E J E F J R L W T K Q I R R R U O Y Q E K O L W  
K G S B K W E H T T A M P Y K W J W M O D K D W D K P  
L U G K B M K E L T K N S T W U K A Y O E D E K D M P  
K S G K I E Q J L U T S G J Y T S K A M W Y E J A Y W  
R M J A M E S S O N O F A L P H A E U S K T R J C Z S

## THE TWELVE DISCIPLES

SIMON PETER

ANDREW

JAMES, SON OF ZEBEDEE

JOHN

PHILIP

BARTHOLOMEW

THOMAS

MATTHEW

JAMES, SON OF ALPHEUS

THADDAEUS

SIMON THE CANAANITE

JUDAS