



LEVEL 8  
**8·4**  
LESSON 4

# Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



The Gospel Message—Preached

# The Gospel Message— Preached!

**I**n the last lesson, we explored Jesus Christ’s early life and His preparation for one of the greatest events in history: His ministry.

The great majority of people, even Christians, misunderstand Christ’s ministry. Most Christians focus on the fact that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, but they misunderstand and ignore His message. And the reason Christ *became* a man was largely to communicate a message! If you don’t understand Christ’s message, you don’t understand Christ.

This lesson will focus on Christ’s ministry—His words and actions. This subject is deeply important for you to study and understand.

Jesus Christ had five main purposes for His life and ministry: 1) to qualify to replace Satan as king of the Earth; 2) to announce the Kingdom of God; 3) to pay the death penalty for sin on behalf of every human being; 4) to be resurrected, making possible a future resurrection for all mankind; and 5) to establish God’s Church.

Our last lesson covered the first purpose. Christ faced Satan in the desert of Judea and in Jerusalem. Satan tempted Him, but He remained perfectly obedient to God. He therefore qualified to replace Satan on Earth’s throne. This lesson will explore the second purpose for Jesus’s life and ministry. Have your pencil ready and fill in the scripture blanks as you study the most amazing biography in human history.

## **FIRST VISIT TO JERUSALEM**

After Jesus conquered Satan in spiritual battle, He selected His first disciples and began His ministry. As the spring holy days approached, He traveled to Jerusalem.

Before keeping the Passover, Christ visited the temple, a building dedicated to the honor and glory

of God, much like Armstrong Auditorium today. There He saw cages of doves flapping their wings, and goats and sheep grazing in pens among hay, feed and droppings. He saw merchants and money changers negotiating and arguing with customers. The whole area clamored with noise and wafted with dust and dirt like a common marketplace.

To the rabble, it was just a normal day of bargaining and selling at the temple ahead of the Passover and spring holy days. But to Jesus Christ, this was a calamity! These people were disgracing those sacred days, using them as an excuse to make money!

Jesus was zealous for His Father, and this scene made Him righteously indignant—angry, but not emotionally out of control. He found some cords and took some time to fashion a whip. Then He began making His way through the throng, taking action. He released animals; pigeons and doves took to the skies; oxen, sheep and goats fled before His whip toward the gate. Money exchangers jumped up as He overturned their tables, sending coins bouncing and rolling across the pavement. The merchants were startled and angry, but Jesus was angrier, and righteously so. He authoritatively shouted, “Do not make my Father’s house a marketplace!” (John 2:16).

Fill in the blanks from verse 17 to see His disciples’ reaction: “*And his disciples \_\_\_\_\_ that it was \_\_\_\_\_, The \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ me up.*”

This event had been prophesied in Psalm 69:9. Jesus took such strong action because He was passionate about what God’s house represented.

Irate and indignant, the sellers and other Jews asked, “What proof can you give to us that you have the right to do this?” (John 2:18).

Christ gave them an intriguing answer:

“\_\_\_\_\_ this temple, and in \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ I will \_\_\_\_\_ it up” (verse 19).

The Jews did not understand Jesus’s answer, and He intentionally left it a mystery that would not be understood until later. His words related to the meaning of the upcoming Passover. At that time, the Jews would slaughter lambs, just as their ancestors in Egypt had done to be protected from the death angel. Those lambs represented a Savior who would die on behalf of all human beings to save them from their sins. And Jesus was that Savior! It was His own human body that was a “temple” for the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). That body would be destroyed, but then raised back up!

Remaining in the grave for three days and three nights, then being resurrected was the only sign that Jesus gave that He was the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior (see John 2:21; Matthew 12:40).

### **BORN AGAIN**

After Passover came the feast of Unleavened Bread. As this festival was ending, Jesus was at His accommodation in Jerusalem when He received an

important visitor named Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a member of the Sanhedrin, a group of the highest Jewish political and religious leaders.

Nicodemus admitted to Jesus that the Jewish leaders were impressed by His deeds and recognized that He was sent by God (John 3:2). They knew the Scriptures prophesied that God would send a Savior to His people who would establish the Kingdom of God. The Sanhedrin members wanted to know if this carpenter from Nazareth claimed to be that Savior, and whether He would try to lead a revolution to rebel against the Roman Empire and establish a Jewish kingdom.

Jesus showed Nicodemus that the Sanhedrin did not understand what the Kingdom of God really is. It would not be ushered in by a human being; in fact, Jesus explained, a man cannot even enter that kingdom unless he is “born again.”

Nicodemus was puzzled. Obviously no man could reenter his mother’s womb and then be reborn. He asked, “How can a man be born again?”

Christ answered: “*Truly, truly, I say unto you, Except a man be \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and*



Nicodemus couldn’t grasp how a man could be born again when he is old.



The Kingdom of God will not fall to ruin like the Roman Empire.

of the \_\_\_\_\_, he cannot enter into the \_\_\_\_\_ . That which is \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_; and that which is \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_” (verses 5-6).

The Kingdom of God is far greater than the Roman Empire, the British Empire or any other human government over human beings: It is a *spiritual government*. That Kingdom’s rulers are composed of spirit (verse 8). A man who enters the Kingdom of God will do so only after he is baptized in water, receives God’s Holy Spirit, and grows in spiritual character—only then can he be born as a spirit being into the God Family.

Jesus then told Nicodemus what God was doing to make it possible for men to be forgiven of their sins and born into eternal life in His Kingdom (verse 16). God loved human beings so much that He was sending His only begotten Son to die for their sins and save them!

Nicodemus had studied the Scriptures. Yet he could not understand the spiritual truth Jesus was teaching him; his mind was closed to it. Like the other Jewish leaders—and almost all other human beings since Adam and Eve—Nicodemus could understand things only using carnal human reasoning. Only if God calls a man and he responds with a humble, teachable

attitude can God teach him the spiritual meaning of the scriptures.

### LEAVING JERUSALEM

After the holy days, Jesus remained in Judea with His disciples. There He continued preaching the gospel message. Those who believed were baptized. This practice represented repentance toward God; later, after Christ’s death and resurrection, these people would receive God’s Holy Spirit.

John the Baptist’s disciples heard that Jesus was performing baptisms. Concerned that He was a false teacher, they told John what was happening. John reassured them that Jesus was indeed sent by God, and that He would do an even greater work. John was merely the one who prepared the people for Christ’s coming. It was time for Christ’s ministry to grow, and for John’s to diminish (John 3:22-30).

Soon after, John was imprisoned by King Herod Antipas (Mark 1:14; Luke 3:19-20). Jesus prayed to God, seeking His will in what to do. To avoid conflict with Herod, Christ and His disciples went north to Galilee.

### MEMORY TEST

Circle the letter next to the correct answer.

1. Jesus Christ went to Jerusalem to
  - a. observe the Feast of Tabernacles.
  - b. be baptized by John the Baptist.
  - c. observe the spring holy days.
  - d. find more people to convert.
2. When Jesus Christ visited the temple, He was
  - a. pleased with how the Jews were worshiping.
  - b. upset that it was being used as a market.
  - c. hiding Himself from the multitudes.
  - d. He never visited the temple.
3. Why did Nicodemus visit Christ?
  - a. He wanted to know more about Jesus Christ.
  - b. He had questions about how to repent.
  - c. He wanted Jesus Christ to stop preaching.
  - d. He came to be baptized.



The Sea of Galilee

4. Why was John the Baptist imprisoned? (from the previous lesson).
  - a. He colluded with the Romans.
  - b. He corrected King Herod for his adultery.
  - c. He corrected the Roman emperor for his violence.
  - d. John was never imprisoned.

### THE ROAD TO GALILEE

On the way to Galilee, Jesus and His disciples traveled through Samaria. Jews considered people from this region to be inferior because they were originally foreigners and had a mix of Babylonian and Jewish heritage. Yet here Jesus did something He had not yet done: He revealed His identity in prophecy.

Outside the city of Sychar, Jesus, after a wearying journey, sat by a well. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and He began talking with her. He explained the message about the Kingdom of God and eternal life. He even told her something He had not explicitly told any Jew: that He was the prophesied Messiah, the Christ!

Amazed, the Samaritan woman went into the city and told people that she had just met perhaps the most important person in human history.

Meanwhile, the disciples returned with food. “Master, would you like to come and eat?” asked one.

Jesus used this opportunity to teach His students an important lesson: “My \_\_\_\_\_ is to do the \_\_\_\_\_ of him that \_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_” (John 4:34). The disciples needed to understand that whether it was warning Jews or teaching Samaritans, what sustained and energized Jesus was doing His Father’s Work. It was even more important than the physical food that sustains physical life.

Sychar city leaders arrived to talk to Jesus to see if He was the Christ. Jesus postponed His trip to Galilee for two days to talk with these Samaritans. Before He left, they believed that Jesus was “indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world” (verse 42).

Here, the people who were regarded as lowlier believed Jesus Christ more than did the religious Jews in Jerusalem! This would not be the last time.

### THE GREAT GALILEAN MINISTRY

Now a major new historical event was about to begin: Jesus Christ would begin preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus traveled from Samaria to Galilee, where people awaited His arrival. The Galileans had been in Jerusalem for the spring holy days and had seen or heard of His zeal at the temple. But Jesus sensed that they would not be as believing as the Samaritans. He

knew that those who were most familiar with Him would be the least likely to believe what He taught. He said, “A \_\_\_\_\_ has no \_\_\_\_\_ in his own \_\_\_\_\_” (John 4:44).

Notice what Jesus began teaching when He arrived in Galilee: “The \_\_\_\_\_ is fulfilled, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is at hand: \_\_\_\_\_ you, and \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel” (Mark 1:14-15). The word “gospel” means good news. Jesus’s message was not about Himself or even about the fact that He was the Christ. It was the good news that the Kingdom of God was coming.

Jesus Christ’s true gospel message has been miraculously recorded and preserved for more than 2,000 years! Those whom God calls—which will eventually include all of mankind—have the opportunity to receive God’s Holy Spirit through baptism, to grow in His way of life (defined by His spiritual law in the Bible), and ultimately to be born again spiritually into His Family, which is the Kingdom of God. Those whom God calls must devote their lives to growing in godly character to the point that they can be born into eternal life. As these Imperial Academy Bible Lessons describe the teachings of Jesus Christ, look for ways to apply them in your life so you can develop good habits and right thinking, preparing yourself to one day be spiritually begotten through baptism and eventually born spiritually into eternal life in God’s Family!

Early during His Galilean ministry, Jesus arrived in the city of Cana, where He had previously turned water into wine in His first recorded public miracle. There, a distraught man approached Him and revealed that his son was gravely ill with a fever. Seeing this man’s sincere faith, Jesus told him that his son was healed. When the man returned home, he learned that his son had begun to recover at the same time he had talked to Jesus.

This was one of many miracles Jesus Christ would perform in Galilee. During His ministry there, Jesus Christ revealed more and more who He was. Thus, Jewish religious leaders grew more and more hostile toward His message and toward Him personally.

## **RETURNING HOME**

Jesus next traveled to His hometown, Nazareth. There He saw people who knew His family and had watched Him grow up. They had seen and heard about His

disruption of the temple marketplace and knew that He performed miracles.

Visiting with them, Jesus could see a disturbing trait in their human nature. When He attended Sabbath services at their synagogue, this trait became especially clear. Given the opportunity to speak, He responded to the question that was on all of their minds by reading from the book of Isaiah:

“The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ is upon me, because he has \_\_\_\_\_ me to \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel to the \_\_\_\_\_; he has sent me to \_\_\_\_\_ the brokenhearted, to preach \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ of sight to the \_\_\_\_\_, to set at \_\_\_\_\_ them that are \_\_\_\_\_, To preach the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_” (Luke 4:18-19).

Then He sat down. The crowd stared at Him in silence. Then He said, soberly: “Today, this prophecy has been fulfilled in your ears” (verse 21).

The Nazarenes sat in shock. They had heard He had become a powerful teacher, and now they had witnessed it. They could not refute His powerful words. They had also heard that He was a worker of miracles—yet He had not healed any of the sick in Nazareth or shown them any signs. They had been familiar with Him as a boy, and doubted His credentials and His reputation. They began murmuring, then arguing with Him. Jesus condemned them for their doubt and said, “No prophet is accepted by the people in his own country.”

Provoked by vanity, the Nazarenes’ outrage at Jesus’s correction boiled over. Some of the older men began shouting Him down. Younger men came forward and actually grabbed Him. Someone shouted, “Throw Him down the cliff!” The people wrestled Jesus out of the synagogue and toward a precipice. The enraged mob was about to murder Him for His words! Yet God performed a miracle: Jesus was loosed from their grip, and He escaped the crowd without their notice (verse 30).

## **FISHERS OF MEN**

After this harrowing incident, Christ moved on to Capernaum, a prosperous city on the northwest shore of the 64-square-mile lake known as the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum was a fishing town. There people were more receptive to Jesus’s message, and He performed



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When the disciples threw their net where Jesus instructed, they caught more fish than they could handle.

miracles of healing. He also taught many people about the Kingdom of God (Luke 4:40-44).

It was here, rather than in Jerusalem or Nazareth, that Jesus chose men to assist Him. He didn't select men from among the priests or political leaders, but from fishermen and other workers. These were men who had studied the Scriptures but were also humble and teachable. He had interacted with some of them before, but now He called them to devote their lives to serving Him in doing God's Work.

One of these men was Simon Peter, a fisherman. Jesus had used his boat as a platform to speak to people on the shore. Afterward, He instructed Peter, his brother Andrew, and their partners James and John to go to deeper water and cast their nets. Though they had been fishing extensively and had caught nothing, they now caught so many fish that their boats began to sink under the weight of their catch! (Luke 5:1-7).

Peter recognized that Jesus Christ had just performed a miracle to teach him a lesson. He fell to his knees and admitted that he was a sinful man, unworthy to be His disciple. Christ reassured him, saying, "Do not be afraid. From now on, you will become a fisher of men" (verses 8-10).

The men docked their boats and left their successful business and their way of life behind, choosing to believe, obey and labor for Jesus Christ and the Work of God.

### **MIRACLES**

On the Sabbath days, Jesus taught in the synagogue. The people were amazed at the power of His message and the authority with which He spoke. He was empowered by unbroken, fervent, daily prayer to His Father. He also performed many miracles in Galilee, casting out demons and healing diseases. News about Him spread,



Perceiving the crowd's thoughts, Jesus told the paralyzed man to get up and walk.

and large groups came to hear Him or to be healed. Many even waited outside the house where He was staying.

*“And it came to pass, when he [Jesus] was in a certain city, behold a man, full of \_\_\_\_\_: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and \_\_\_\_\_ him, saying, Lord, if \_\_\_\_\_, you can \_\_\_\_\_\_. And he put forth his \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ him, saying, I will: be \_\_\_\_\_\_. And \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ from him”* (Luke 5:12-13).

It was Jesus Christ's will to heal this man. And it is His will to heal us today (James 5:13-15; 1 Peter 2:24).

Later, at His home in Capernaum, such a teeming crowd had gathered that no more could come through the door. Outside was a group of friends, one of whom was paralyzed. His friends believed so earnestly that Jesus could heal him that they actually maneuvered him, on his bed, to the rooftop, pulled off the roofing tiles and contrived a way to lower the bed into the room where Jesus was speaking. The others were shocked at the spectacle. Jesus, however, perceived their faith. “Son,” He said, “your sins are forgiven” (Mark 2:1-5).

The crowd was awed: Jesus didn't just *heal* this man; He *forgave his sins*. They did not understand that healing is the same thing as forgiveness of physical sins. The religious leaders among them thought it blasphemous for a man to say he forgave sins.

Perceiving their thoughts, Jesus told them, “Is it easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven’ or ‘Rise up and walk’? Don't you know that healing is forgiveness of sin?” Turning back to the paralyzed man, He said, “So you will know that the Son of man has power on Earth to forgive sins: Arise, take your bed, and go to your house” (verses 8-11). And the man did so. The crowd was electrified: They had just witnessed not only a powerful teaching but also a dramatic miracle!

### **MEMORY TEST**

*Circle the letter next to the correct answer.*

1. The word “gospel” means:
  - a. prophetic warning
  - b. the Family of God
  - c. good news
  - d. God's hope



2. The message that Jesus Christ taught was about
  - a. the coming Kingdom of God.
  - b. the Great Tribulation.
  - c. a seven-year famine.
  - d. His own life.
  
3. Jesus told which disciples that they would be “fishers of men”?
  - a. Levi, Andrew, James, John
  - b. James, Andrew, John, Matthew
  - c. Peter, James, Levi, John
  - d. Peter, Andrew, James, John
  
4. Why did Jesus Christ say no miracles had been performed in His hometown?
  - a. They didn’t need miracles.
  - b. They were not sick.
  - c. They did not believe Him.
  - d. None of the above
  
5. Why did religious leaders struggle with Christ healing the paralyzed man?
  - a. They didn’t think it was His will.
  - b. They didn’t understand that healing is forgiveness of sin.
  - c. His friends had ruined the ceiling.
  - d. Jesus didn’t forgive the man’s sins.

### **ANOTHER DISCIPLE CALLED**

Later Jesus selected another man, Matthew, to be one of His assistants. Matthew was a tax collector, a profession in which men not only took money from people for taxes but often abused their powers and took extra money for themselves. People viewed tax collectors with the same disdain as thieves, gamblers and harlots. The fact that Jesus called a tax collector to become His disciple surprised people.

Matthew (who was also known as Levi) invited Jesus and the disciples to his home to dine with him and his friends, who were also in collections (Luke 5:29). They had heard about Jesus and were curious to hear what He taught. But the religious leaders, including Pharisees, criticized Jesus for eating with these sinners. Knowing their murmuring, Jesus used the opportunity to teach an important lesson. “If someone is healthy, they don’t need a doctor,” He said. “I have

not come to call to repentance people who think they are righteous; instead, I am here to call sinners to repentance” (Mark 2:15-17).

Overall, those who can admit they are sinners are likelier to believe Christ than those who try to be righteous but also have Satan’s attitude of *self-righteousness*.

### **A QUESTION ABOUT FASTING**

A short time later, a group of students of John the Baptist asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples fast like we and the Pharisees do?” (Mark 2:18). Many religious Jews at that time fasted twice a week (Luke 18:12). However, they did not understand the purpose for fasting. Fasting is not intended to show how religious you are, nor to force God to do something. Fasting is meant to help us grow humbler and closer to God. Jesus used this occasion to teach a lesson to John the Baptist’s disciples, His own disciples and all who would later read the record of what He said, including true Christians today.

“Can the children of the bridegroom fast when the bridegroom is still with them?” He asked. “There will come a time when the bridegroom is taken away. *Then they shall fast*” (Mark 2:19-20). Jesus Christ’s disciples were close to God, literally—He was right there among them! Later, He would be killed and resurrected, and would return to His Father. At that point, His disciples would fast to draw closer to God.

Jesus then used an analogy about trying to use a new cloth to patch an old garment to illustrate that we must never mix true religion (for example, fasting) with false religion (vanity). To please God, we cannot hold on to our old ways or this world’s ways; God’s way of life is entirely different and must be pure!

### **THREE SABBATH CONTROVERSIES**

With every healing and every sermon, news about Jesus spread. Those who opposed Him grew more disturbed. Religious leaders continued confronting Him, hoping to discredit Him. The Bible records three times when Pharisees used the issue of the Sabbath to accuse Jesus of being a false teacher.

One Sabbath, Jesus’s disciples picked and ate ears of corn as they walked through a field. The Pharisees said they were breaking the Sabbath day because they had picked more than three ears of corn. The three-



The Pharisees criticized Christ's disciples for picking corn on the Sabbath.

ear limit was not a law of God but a rule that earlier Pharisees had established. They took God's law and added numerous rules to create a system for people to make themselves righteous. But this system led people away from God rather than closer to Him.

Jesus reminded them of King David's example of eating bread from the holy place of God's tabernacle. He explained that the *spirit* of the law is most important, and said following the Jews' religious rules was not true righteousness.

*"And he said unto them, The \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_, and not \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_: Therefore the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ also of the \_\_\_\_\_"* (Mark 2:27-28). Jesus Christ was also Lord over that day and had authority to determine how it should be observed so it fulfilled God's intent of being a blessing to mankind.

Shortly after this encounter, Jesus was teaching in the synagogue. The Pharisees watched Him closely, hoping He would do or say something they could attack. As His message ended, a man with a withered hand

approached Him. Jesus knew the Pharisees would look on this as another chance to accuse Him. Rather than avoiding the confrontation, He again addressed it directly and used it as an opportunity to teach.

"Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil?" Jesus asked the crowd. "To save a life or kill it?" The crowd remained silent.

"Who here, would not get sweaty and dirty to pull one of your sheep out of a pit, even if it fell into it on the Sabbath? How much better is a man than a sheep?" Since no one answered, Jesus did: "It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath day."

He then told the man to stretch forth his crippled hand. As he obeyed, his gnarled hand straightened and healed! (Luke 6:9-10).

The Pharisees did not celebrate this miracle. Nor did they humbly accept correction from Jesus and His instruction about the Sabbath's true purpose. Instead they stewed and chafed at having been publicly humiliated. Leaving the synagogue, they began to scheme against Jesus (verse 11).

## A SIGN

Jesus knew that the Pharisees were beginning to plot against Him. They had been trying to destroy His reputation, but now they were so resentful of His correction, of His miracles and of the power of His message that they wanted to *kill Him*.

Led by God, Jesus withdrew to the Sea of Galilee. Multitudes followed Him there. He could have fled and hid to protect Himself, but instead He healed their diseases and cast out demons (Matthew 12:15).

Some of the Pharisees came among the crowds. On one occasion, one fired an accusation against Him: “This man casts out demons by the power of Satan!”

How could Jesus prove that His power to do miracles did not come from Satan? Jesus authoritatively answered their accusation and taught an important truth about Satan. “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” He said. “If Satan casts out Satan, how will his kingdom stand? Now, if I am casting out devils by the power of God, then the Kingdom of God is come unto you” (verses 25-28).

Despite the Pharisees’ repeated attacks, Jesus continued His work of healing and preaching about the Kingdom of God.

“Master,” one Pharisee said, “can you show us a sign that you’re the Son of God?” To answer, Christ didn’t point to His many miracles. Instead, He said: “An \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ generation seeks after a \_\_\_\_\_; and there shall no \_\_\_\_\_ be given to it, but the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_: For as \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ days and \_\_\_\_\_ nights in the \_\_\_\_\_; so shall the \_\_\_\_\_ of man be \_\_\_\_\_ days and \_\_\_\_\_ nights in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_” (verses 39-40).

Jesus was revealing that He would be in the grave for three days and three nights, then miraculously resurrected—the same sign He had mysteriously given after cleansing the temple. This supernatural proof that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, would not come until after He died. So people had to decide before then, by faith, whether to believe and follow Him.

## GOD SELECTS APOSTLES

After this encounter, Jesus went up to a mountain and prayed to God all night (Luke 6:12). One of His

main purposes for coming to Earth was to establish the foundation of the true Church. Christ knew the Church would need leaders, and He sought God the Father’s guidance on whom to select as His apostles. The word *apostle* means “one sent forth.” These men would be given a special mission to help establish the Church.

By this time, Christ had many followers, but He would give only 12 disciples the special commission of preaching the gospel, healing people, and casting out demons (Mark 3:14-15).

After receiving His Father’s direction, Jesus Christ personally ordained Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, James and his brother John, Matthew Levi, Philip, Nathanael Bartholomew, Thomas, Simon the Zealot, Judas Thaddeus, James (son of Alphaeus) and Judas Iscariot (Matthew 10:2-4; Luke 6:12-16). These men had left their old occupations behind and committed their lives to following and supporting Jesus Christ. This was the foundation of God’s one true Church.

In the next lesson, you will learn about one of Jesus Christ’s most profound and important sermons.

# BIBLE MEMORY

John 3:4-6

Mark 1:14-15

Mark 2:27-28

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## Who Was Jesus Christ?

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

FISHERMAN

JERUSALEM

NICODEMUS

SAMARIA

CANA

FORGIVE

KINGDOM

PASSOVER

SANHEDRIN

CAPERNAUM

GALILEE

MESSIAH

PHARISEE

SYNAGOGUE

CHURCH

GOSPEL

MIRACLE

PROPHECY

TEACHER

DISCIPLES

HEALING

NAZARETH

SABBATH

TEMPLE