

LESSON TEN

FIRST YEAR OF MINISTRY

A. SOME IMPORTANT EVENTS IN CHRIST'S FIRST YEAR:

We are listing in chronological order some of the most important events in the first year of Jesus Christ's ministry. These events begin with the baptism of Jesus Christ and end with the beginning of the second Passover. This takes in a period, which is more than a year. Jesus was about thirty years of age.

The purpose of this study is to give the student a general idea of our Lord's ministry during this first year. No attempt is made to list all of the events but only some of the most important. In most cases only one reference is given although often the reference may be found in more than one gospel.

This year is sometimes called, "The Year of Inauguration."

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. The Baptism of Jesus at Bethabara | - Matthew 3:13-17. |
| 2. The Temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness | - Matthew 4:1-11. |
| 3. The Testimony of John the Baptist | - John 1:19-51. |
| 4. The Marriage Feast at Cana in Galilee | - John 2:1-11. |
| 5. Jesus visits Capernaum | - John 2:12. |
| 6. Jesus goes to Jerusalem for Passover | - John 2:13. |
| 7. Jesus cleanses the Temple | - John 2:13-25. |
| 8. Jesus ministers to Nicodemus | - John 3:1-21. |
| 9. Jesus ministers to the woman at the well | - John 4:1-42. |
| 10. At Cana Jesus heals the nobleman's son | - John 4:46-54. |
| 11. Jesus goes to Nazareth where He preserves
His life by a miracle | - Luke 4:28-30. |
| 12. The call of four disciples, Simon and Andrew, James and John | - Luke 5:1-11. |
| 13. He heals a demoniac in the synagogue at Capernaum | - Luke 4:31-37. |
| 14. Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law | - Luke 4:38-44. |
| 15. Jesus stills the storm | - Mark 4:35-41. |
| 16. Jesus heals the demoniac in Gadara | - Mark 5:1-20. |
| 17. Jesus heals the daughter of Jairus | - Mark 5:21-43. |
| 18. He heals the paralytic at Capernaum | - Luke 5:18-25. |
| 19. He calls Matthew to be a disciple | - Luke 5:27-32. |

B. THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE:

TEXT: - First Cleansing: - John 2:13-22;
 - Second Cleansing: - Matthew 21:12-13;
 Mark 11:15-18;
 Luke 19:45-46.

Jesus cleansed the Temple two times during His ministry. The first time is recorded by John's gospel and took place at the beginning of His ministry. The second time is recorded in each of

the synoptic gospels and took place near the end of His ministry, the day after His triumphal entry.

There seemed to be a divine purpose in these two incidents taking place at the beginning and end of His ministry. In the first cleansing Jesus was able to proclaim His true authority and to announce His identity as the Messiah. He also was able to announce and clearly show that He would not compromise with evil. By the cleansing of the Temple He earned the bitter hatred of Annas and Caiaphas. The second cleansing announced the end of His ministry by bringing about His arrest and trial.

About a month before the Passover the moneychangers would open their booths. Each Jew had to pay the Temple Tribute of the half-shekel. When the pilgrims began to arrive in Jerusalem, the moneychangers would move within the Temple. They generally charged about twelve percent for the exchange of Jewish coins for the various foreign coins. The annual revenue of the Temple from this source was about seventy-five thousand pounds.

Under Annas, the ex-High Priest, a market was established in the Temple for the sale of sheep, oxen, doves and pigeons. These animals had to be inspected by examiners who charged exorbitant fees. Sometimes a lamb or dove was sold for five or six times its value. The whole business was a system of graft and was a terrible desecration to the Temple.

When Jesus looked upon this awful desecration, He was filled with righteous and wrathful indignation. He takes a few pieces of cord and weaves and plaits them into a whip. He drove out the sheep and oxen from the Temple court. Then quick as a flash he overthrew the tables of the moneychangers.

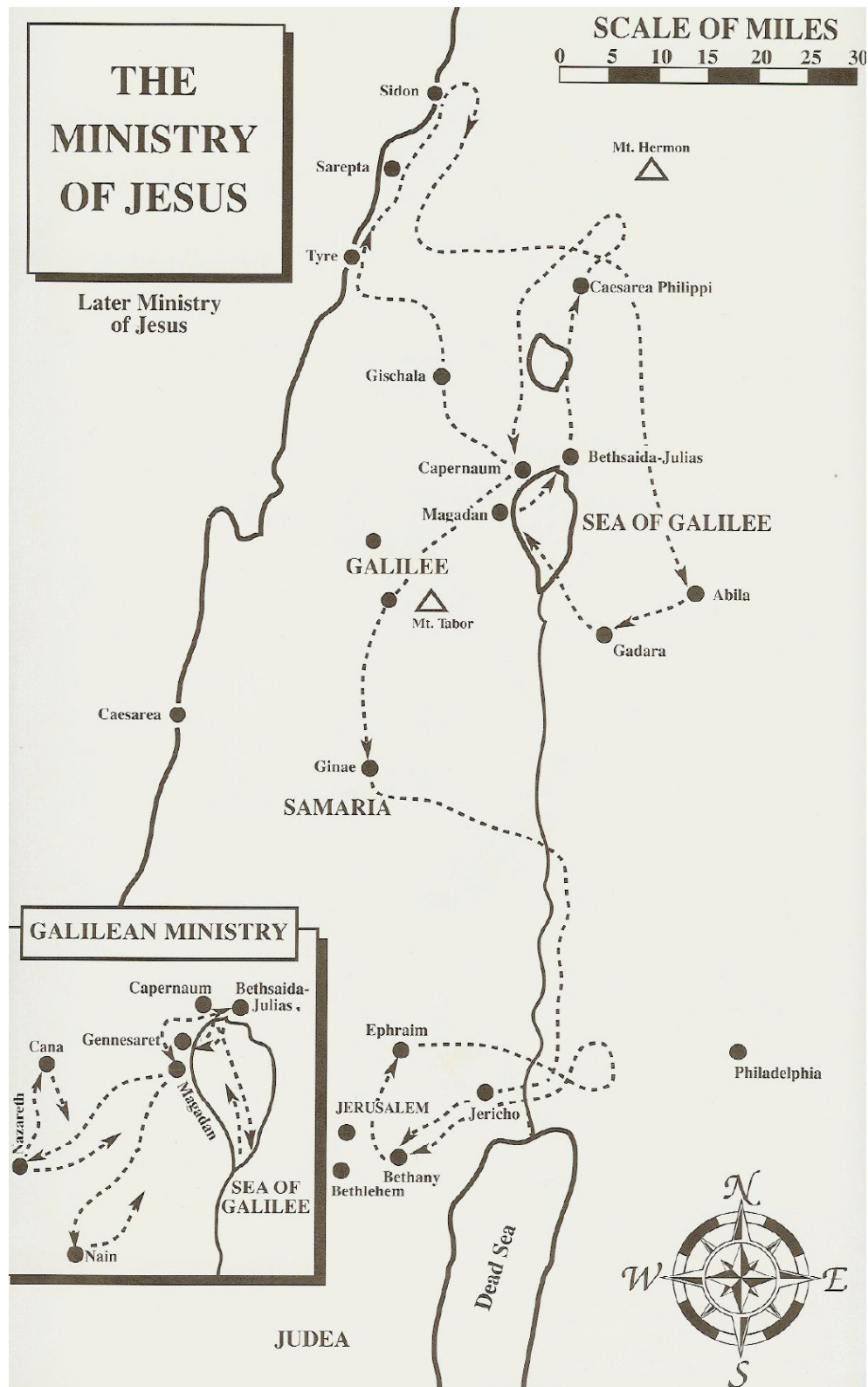
When we understand the anger and opposition that was stirred up, we can see the tremendous miracle that took place. This was a supernatural act. There was something about the appearance of Jesus that caused the whole crowd to be afraid of Him. From the natural side we might remember that this was a very popular act for the people hated these markets and would approve and applaud what was done. Undoubtedly it caught the moneychangers by surprise and they did not have time to organize opposition.

It is to be expected that this act would soon be challenged. His enemies were careful not to antagonize the public. They come to Him with cunning trying to set a trap for Him. "*What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?*" In other words they asked for the badge of His authority. Jesus did not walk into the trap but answered, "*Destroy this temple, and in three days, I will raise it up.*" Jesus referred to His own body for He knew that the hatred He had stirred up by this act would cost Him his life. At His trial His enemies changed His words and quoted Him as saying, "*I will destroy*" (*Mark 14:58*) and "*I can destroy*" (*Matthew 26:61*). Jesus did not say this; He said, "*You destroy this temple...*"

In the application there are a few lessons that we may learn from this incident in our Lord's ministry:

1. Our bodies are the temples of the Holy Ghost and must never be desecrated. Christ's attitude will be the same towards the person who desecrates his body as His attitude was towards those who desecrate the Temple.
2. A definite stand must always be taken against sin. There can be no compromise.
3. If we are filled with the Holy Ghost, our reaction to sin and corruption in the professing church should be the same as Christ's.

C. THE MINISTRY OF JESUS:



LESSON TEN

SELF HELP TEST

Mark the following places on the map: Galilee; Jordan River; Bethlehem; Jerusalem;
Dead Sea; Sycahr; Caesarea Philippi; Damascus; Nazareth; Cana; Jericho; Caesarea;
Capernaum; Bethsaida; Decapolis.

