

Champions/Women of Destiny

LESSON 5



Who Do You Say I Am?

Read: Mark 1:16-22; Luke 5:6-10, 27-28; John 1:43-51

Everybody *and everything* is known for something. Banks are known for holding and distributing money; hospitals are known for caring for the sick; bars are known for selling alcohol; clubs are known for dancing (*among other things*). You would not expect to go to a club and make a financial withdrawal or go to a hospital and find them selling liquor. At least, I hope not!

However, what are you known for? Jesus posed this question to His disciples in Matthew 16:15 about Himself. The answer to the question determines where you are in your faith and walk with God. These next two lessons will focus on the life of Christ while on this earth. It is our hope that as you study this lesson *and discuss it with your mentor*, you will have renewed faith and understanding in the Person of Jesus Christ and why the Bible relates to you so well.

Enjoy this study and Merry Christmas to you. Remember, Jesus is the reason for this season. What Gift will you give to Him?

The last few lessons we have talked about Jesus the child. However, we stopped at his pre-teen stage and there are 18 years of silence before we hear about Jesus again in public. What do you think He was doing for 18 years? He was preparing for His three-and-a-half year mission on earth that would lead to His death, resurrection, and ascension. Let's take a look.

Three-year Preview

JESUS, at 30 years of age, didn't immediately capture public attention. He spent His first year in obscurity, (*if you don't know a word don't be afraid to look it up*) devoting much of His time to teaching and assembling a group of 12 followers we call His disciples, the Apostles, or the Twelve. During Jesus' second year, He achieved popularity in Galilee where most of His documented ministry took place. On the flip side, Jesus also gained some powerful enemies. Most of Jesus' opposition came from the scribes and Pharisees who reacted to His claim that He could forgive sins (Matt.9: 1-6). Only God can forgive sins, they declared, charging Jesus with blasphemy (claiming to be God).



Jesus spent His third year training His disciples and finishing the work God had given Him to do. In short, Jesus experienced a busy three-year ministry with the help of 12 ordinary and imperfect men.

What's Up With the 12?

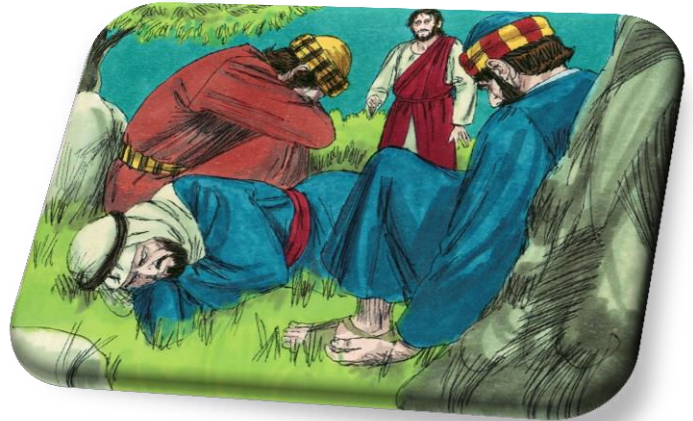
Do you know that at one time Jesus had more than 70 disciples (Luke 10:1). **“And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles.”**(Luke 6:12-13) An apostle is one who is sent out to be a representative.

Greek: *apostolos* [ajpovstolo"]. Envoy, ambassador, or messenger commissioned to carry out the instructions of the commissioning agent.

More than the act of sending, this word includes the idea of the authorization of a messenger. The noun *apostolos* [ajpovstolo"] is found only in 1Kings 14:6, where the commissioning and empowering of the prophet are clearly in mind. Thus, the Septuagint uses the *apostello* [ajpostevllw] word-group to denote the authorization of an individual to fulfill a particular function, with emphasis on the one who sends, not on the one who is sent. Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology

The twelve were: Simon Peter, Andrew (Peter's brother), **James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James** (son of Alphaeus), **Simon** (the Zealot), **Judas** (son of James), **Judas Iscariot** (who later betrayed him) Luke 6:14-16.

The Bible documents the Twelve as imperfect people just like you and me: sleeping when they should have been awake (Mark 14:37); forgetful when they should have remembered (Matt. 16:5), doubtful when they should have believed (Matt. 17:19-20); foolish when they should have been wise (Matt. 23:17); arrogant in their claims to stick tight with Jesus to the very end (Matt. 26:35) only to go back on their word (vs. 56). And yet, Jesus chooses to work with believing but sinful people like them and us to do great and mighty things to turn the world upside down (Acts 17:6).



Jesus' relationship with His disciples should encourage you. Though we all are imperfect people, **God can work through us to achieve His will in the world around us** –that's a G double O-D GOD – Good God, Good God!

Jesus the Miracle Man

Although Jesus performed countless miracles, the New Testament records about **33 specific miracles** performed during His earthly ministry (see chart). Miracles served a key role in Jesus' ministry because they attracted non-believing men and women to God. Jesus' miracles appear in four categories: **miracles of healing, miracles of exorcism, miracles of resurrection, and miracles over nature.**

Jesus never performed miracles to entertain an audience. **[This is important for all of us especially in today's time when people try to "play" others using miracle talk for money.]**

His astounding miracles served several purposes. First, they **caught the attention of the people around Him**. By taking notice, they made themselves receptive to what He had to say and who He was. Second, **His miracles showed that He was God**. In John 5:36, Jesus said: *But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish--the very works that I do--bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.* (NKJV) If someone



were to come along and say “**I’m God,**” we probably wouldn’t believe him or her. But if someone made that claim and supported it with astounding miracles, we’d probably take the claim more seriously. Jesus supported His claim by His works. *(At this point, there could be a good discussion about the anti-Christ but that is for another time).*

Even John the Baptist, who knew Jesus, was tempted to doubt whether Jesus was really the Messiah. Jesus told John’s

messengers *“Go back to John and tell*

him what you have seen and heard – the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor”. (New Living Translation) Jesus was actually telling John that He was fulfilling the prophesy about one who would come to save. **Read Isaiah 35:4-6 to see what He was talking about.**

What About Today? Does God Still Perform Miracles?



This question leads to some controversy on people’s beliefs if miracles are necessary. We will not debate that here. That is your decision to make. Consider this question; **Have you witnessed a miracle before? Something that only God can do?**

Though not in every situation, ***it is my opinion*** that Jesus does perform miracles among His people today. Yet, many feel deprived because they’re unable to witness Christ’s miracles documented in the New Testament. They reason that they would believe in Jesus’ deity (that He is God) if only they could see Him perform a miracle. The fact is, the Bible provides all the evidence we need for a person believe and to accept Jesus as their Savior.

Memory Verse

“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” (NKJV)

–John 20:30-31

Let's Flesh This Out!

Jesus was often moved with compassion for the people who were around Him. Read



these references about Jesus' compassion:

Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 20:34

Mark 1:41; 5:19; 6:34; 8:2

Luke 7:13; 15:20

Now, choose someone you know (someone older or younger than you but not your best friend or family member) who needs your compassion. Below write the person's name and select how you will meet this person's needs this month. Follow through and be honest.

This week I will show compassion to _____ by:
(Circle one below and share the results with your mentor)

1. Doing yard work
2. Cleaning his or her house or garage
3. Washing his or her car
4. Baby-sitting
5. Doing their laundry
6. Preparing a meal (not fast food)
7. Taking out their garbage
8. Baking a snack (if you can't do this –don't try)
9. Driving him or her to Church or other errands
10. Other (approved by Kaleo or Mentor)



Now watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson:

https://youtu.be/C1R_3HHRGcY

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LESSON 5 Review Quiz



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/5z8P7hy3Bo5Fn8Vy8>

Student name _____
(PRINT CLEARLY)

1. How many years did Jesus spend in preparation before He began His three-and-a-half year ministry?
2. How old was Jesus when He began His ministry?
3. Who were Jesus' powerful enemies?
4. Why did Jesus' enemies charge Him with blasphemy?
5. True/False. At one time, Jesus' disciples numbered more than 70.
6. List Jesus' 12 apostles. What does it mean to be an apostle?
7. At least how many specific miracles of Jesus does the New Testament record?
8. What were the four categories of Jesus' miracles?
9. What was the purpose of miracles?
10. How did Jesus answer John the Baptist's question of whether He was the Messiah?