

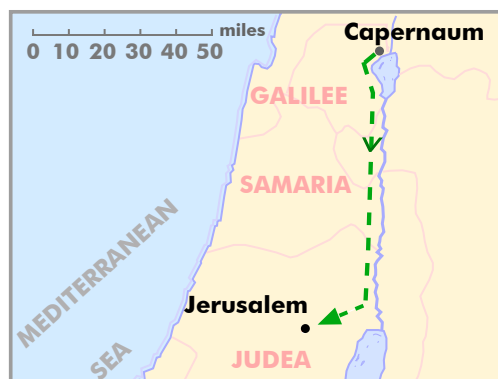
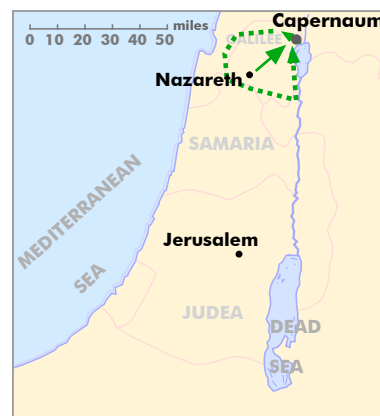
Lesson #5 LIFE OF JESUS

2nd Year of Ministry – Part 2 2019

Before starting this lesson, read **Matthew 5:1-26; 10:2-4; 12:1-21; Mark 2:23 thru 3:19; Luke 6:1-23; John 5** or **Harmony of the 4 Gospels, SECTIONS 49-54 (thru the Beatitudes)**

In the previous lesson we saw Jesus began His 2nd year of ministry by leaving Nazareth and moving to Capernaum. He asked Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John to work with Him. Over the next 3 months they traveled thruout the province of Galilee with Jesus presenting Himself as their promised Messiah. We are told He did many miracles, including healing a leper - a man with a contagious and incurable skin disease. This was a Messianic miracle that the Sanhedrin said only the Messiah could do. It would be the way to know the true Messiah when He came.

Jesus and His 4 followers had returned to Capernaum. Jesus had healed a man as well as taught the people. A few days later, He called Matthew, the tax collector, to follow and work with Him.



A few weeks go by and it is time for the yearly celebration of Passover. Jesus and His 5 disciples travel the 85 miles south to Jerusalem. John chapter 5 gives the details.

Near the Temple courtyard Jesus heals a man who has been unable to walk for 38 years. Altho Jesus **could** have done it anytime and on any day, He chooses to do it on the Sabbath in order to get the attention of the Sanhedrin. He wants to make a distinction between Moses' law, given by God and Mishnah law which was man-made.

To understand the problem we need more background.

The Sanhedrin

They have the major role in the life of Jesus.

400 BC - God directed Ezra to form the Sanhedrin

It was a group of **120** men called The Scribes who were to protect Jewish practice and teaching over the next centuries. They had 3 major responsibilities.

- To teach God's Word by putting it in the language of the people and explaining it.
- To preserve Jewish faith especially by keeping alive the expectation of the coming Messiah.
- To guard the faith, by investigating anyone who claims to be the Messiah and then deciding for the nation, *Yes, He is our Jewish Messiah or no, He is not our Messiah and this is why.*

200's BC - The number was lowered to **71** - 70 scribes plus the high priest.

At this time they also became the supreme court over Jewish religious issues.

1st century AD - the Sanhedrin is divided into 3 branches - the *chief priests*, *scribes* and *elders*. Matthew 16:21

24 chief priests - we know them in the Gospels as **The Sadducees**.

They are from the Sadducee party, known for their **pro-Greek** views and beliefs.

They oversee the priests who serve in the Temple and influence who is chosen as high-priest.

They are an elite group of priests from very wealthy Jewish families.

22 scribes - we know them in the Gospels as *The Scribes or Teachers of Law*.

They are from the Pharisee party, known for their **pro-Jewish** beliefs; separatists who want all things Jewish, completely separate from any Gentile or Greek influence.

Their responsibility is to **teach** and **explain** the law and the expectation of the Messiah.

Originally, they only taught the 613 laws that God gave to Moses.

Now in the first century, they spend all their time teaching the Mishnah laws.

24 elders - we know them in the Gospels as *The Pharisees*.

They are older members, obviously from the Pharisee party, known for their **pro-Jewish** beliefs.

Their responsibility is to **enforce** the law.

Originally, they were concerned about people breaking the laws of Moses.

Now all their attention is on people breaking Mishnah laws. They bring them before the complete Sanhedrin to reprimand them, charge them a fine or put them in prison.

The Jews as a nation are under the Roman empire. But Rome has appointed the Sanhedrin to govern and judge their nation in all their religious matters.

So the **Sanhedrin** are the Jewish rulers and supreme court. There are 70 members plus the high priest, who is their head.

The Mishnah

The Jewish **laws** the Sanhedrin are teaching and enforcing.

1400 BC - During the time of Moses, when the Jewish nation was being formed at Mt. Sinai, God gave them 613 laws, with the command to obey them. He put the Jews in the land He promised them - the land of Israel.

**613
Laws of Moses**

Over the next 900 years, most of the time the Jews did not obey the laws of Moses (given by God).

500's BC

Finally, the Jews' disobedience was so deliberate that God sent them into exile in Babylon. Seventy years later in response to their repentance, God brought them back to the land. They became a Jewish nation once again.

400's BC

Some 100 years went by. Now we come to the time of Ezra.

God led him to not only form the Sanhedrin, but also to begin a school to train them.

The **School of the Scribes** was like our Bible schools or seminaries. They learned how to explain God's Word and make it practical. They would tell the people, *God has given you these 613 laws. This is why you should obey them.* By making it simple, the people would understand and be able to obey. Then the nation would never again go into exile.

The Scribes in Ezra's day loved this arrangement - they trained so they could effectively teach.

But the next generation of **scribes** (*Sopherim*) decided that just teaching the law of Moses was not enough for the people.

They needed new laws to be like a fence around Moses' (God's) laws. Their little, detailed laws would keep people from breaking *Moses'* (God's) big laws. The *scribes* memorized their new laws and passed them on from generation to generation, always in spoken form. Everyone knew, the laws of Moses (God) must be obeyed. The **laws of the scribes** could be questioned.

Laws of Scribes
**613
Laws of Moses**

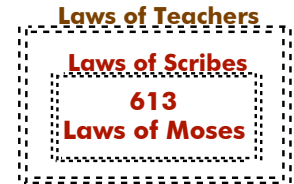
350 - 30 BC

After 300 years, with generation after generation of scribes teaching and emphasizing *their* laws, by 30 BC, the scribes now believe their laws are equal to Moses' (God's) law.

350 - 30 BC (continued)

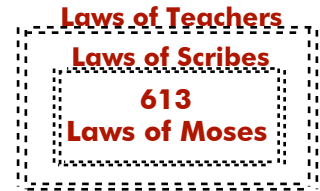
So the Sanhedrin forms another group called the **teachers**. (*Tana'im*)

To help people obey, they make more laws as a fence around the laws of Moses *and* the laws of the scribes. The people must now obey both sets of laws - of Moses (God) and of the scribes. Only the **laws of the teachers** can be questioned.



30 BC – 220 AD These laws of the *teachers* continue from 30 BC to 220 AD.

After 250 years, with generation after generation of teachers, teaching and emphasizing *their* laws, **they** finally decide their laws are equal to the laws of Moses (God's) and the scribes. The people are now required to obey 3 sets of laws, the **laws of Moses** (God's), **laws of the scribes** and **laws of the teachers**. So a 3rd group of leaders develop. (*speakers* - Amoraim). They finally put all the memorized, fence laws into writing and then write a commentary about them and about Jewish life



Laws of God given to Moses became known as the **written law** or the **Torah**. They were given by God in 1400 BC.

Laws of the *scribes* and *teachers* were called...

The oral law, traditions of the elders, customs of the ancestors, law of the Pharisees, Mishnah

These man-made laws were made over a period of 600 years from 350 BC to 220 AD.

Analysis and commentary of the Mishnah laws was developed from 220 - 500 A.D. It was called the **Gemara**.

In Judaism today, the written *Mishnah* laws plus the *Gemara* commentary have been combined in a series of books called the **Talmud**. An English copy of the Talmud takes up 23 volumes. While Jews today read and study their Hebrew Scriptures, most of their attention is still given to the Mishnah.



This is the big picture, going up to 500 AD, to explain what the Talmud is, how it developed and who wrote it.

30 BC in Sanhedrin history – its importance...

The Sanhedrin changed the facts about the Mishnah.

Earlier they said only God's laws thru Moses had to be obeyed. Their Sanhedrin, Mishnah laws could be questioned. But then they wanted their words to have equal authority.

So they began teaching that when God gave Moses the 613 laws in written form,

He also gave the Mishnah laws in **spoken** (oral) form.

Since they were given at the same time, this made them equal. **The Mishnah was equal to Moses' law.**

They began to say it was a **greater** sin to break a law of the Mishnah than to break a law of Moses.

In actual fact...

Mishnah laws started being developed some 1000 years **after** Moses.

The Sanhedrin changed their rules on how to identify the Messiah when He came.

Earlier the Sanhedrin said they would know who the Messiah was,
because He would do the Messianic miracles of healing that no one else had ever done.
But now, to hold on to their power and authority, they set up a new way to recognize the Messiah.
He will be a Pharisee like they are.
He will obey all the laws of Mishnah.
He will join them in making new laws.
He will support Sanhedrin authority and Mishnah laws.

So in 30 BC, there were 2 sets of rules by which to identify the Messiah.
From that point on, each generation of Sanhedrin would decide which set of rules to use.

This information on the Sanhedrin and the Mishnah is crucial to understanding the Gospels.

The **Sanhedrin** have the most important role in Jesus' life –
to decide for 1st century Jews if He is the promised Messiah.
The conflict between God's **laws** and Mishnah laws becomes the major issue.

Also remember, the Jews are still under Old Testament standards
Believing in the death and resurrection of Jesus is not yet possible because it has not yet happened.
In addition, the Church has not yet been formed.
Faith involves believing the prophets of the Old Testament and in Jesus as the promised Messiah.

Jesus...

In regards to the **Sanhedrin** – He presents Himself as the promised Messiah by what He says and does
In regards to the **Law**
He obeys **Moses' law** (given by God) because He is a Jew living within the Jewish culture.
He has to obey Moses' law to be without sin.
He teaches the Jewish people to keep both the letter of Moses' law as well as the spirit of the law.
He does not keep nor support the Mishnah - the man-made laws.

It is around April – 4 months into Jesus' 2nd year of ministry.

The Sanhedrin in Jerusalem know Jesus did a Messianic miracle. They have observed Him claim to be deity.
But now, as they continue their investigation, they decide to ignore the older rules of looking at Messianic miracles.
They decide to use the newer rules that say the Messiah has to support the Mishnah laws.
They do this out of fear, because if Jesus rejects Mishnah laws and gets the people to reject them,
the Sanhedrin will lose their power and authority.

Jesus is ready for the conflict.

He will follow Moses' (God's) law to keep the Sabbath day holy.
But He will not obey the 1,500 Mishnah laws about the Sabbath.

This conflict happens during Passover week. Jesus has healed a man near the Temple courtyard, on the Sabbath.
The healing itself does not violate any of **Moses' laws**.
But commanding the man to carry his mat violates **Mishnah laws**.

When the Sanhedrin confront Jesus, He says to them, **My Father is always at His work...and I too am working.**
John 5:17.

In Western thinking, a father-son relationship is vertical, the father being superior and the son under him.
In Middle East thinking, a father and his **first-born** son's relationship is horizontal.
The character of the father **is** the character of the son. *Like father - like son.*
Jews referred to God as **our Father** - they only related to God as a nation and He as their Father.
To call God **my Father** was blasphemy. It was claiming the position of the first-born son.

When Jesus calls God, **My Father**, He is saying He is equal with the Father - He is deity.

In their role as supreme court, the Sanhedrin believe this violation of Sabbath and claim of deity deserves the death penalty.

For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill Him; not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. John 5:18

There are people who say that in the Gospels, Jesus never claimed deity. This verse shows that He did and it is for that very claim the Sanhedrin want to kill Him.

After a few weeks, Jesus and His disciples head back to Galilee. On the Sabbath, they walk by a wheat field. Because the disciples are hungry, they reach out and grab a few stalks of wheat. They pull off the ripened wheat and eat the grain. Sanhedrin members who are following them, ask Jesus why He allows His disciples to break the Sabbath?

Moses' law said Jews could not reap or harvest grain on the Sabbath. But pulling a few heads of grain from the stalk certainly is not harvesting. However, some of the 1500 *Mishnah* laws about Sabbath took things to an extreme.

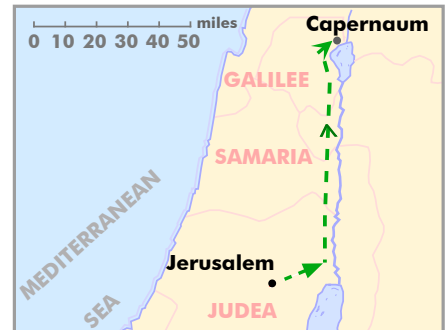
They said plucking grain as one walked by, was a form of *reaping*.

Rubbing the wheat in the hand to remove the chaff was a form of *threshing*.

Blowing the chaff out of the hand in order to leave the kernels of wheat was a form of *winnowing*.

Eating the kernels was a form of *storing* the grain.

Sanhedrin members are saying the disciples have broken 4 of their Mishnah Sabbath laws.



A few days later, Jesus and the 5 disciples are back in Capernaum. On one of the following Sabbaths, Jesus goes to the synagogue.

Sanhedrin members have deliberately put a man with a deformed hand in the synagogue to see if Jesus will heal on the Sabbath. Jesus reminds them that *Moses'* (God's) law says they should do good and show mercy on the Sabbath. Therefore He will do both by healing this man.

The Sanhedrin can see they are losing power and authority and people are turning to Jesus. Because of this, they start making plans to kill Jesus. Notice the contrast and hypocrisy.

They criticize **Jesus** for **healing** on the Sabbath.

Yet, on the Sabbath, **they** start plans of murder - to **kill** Him.

Jesus and the 5 men with Him, leave the synagogue. Jesus is now half-way thru His 2nd year of ministry.

Up to this point He has had just a few *disciples*, meaning

ones who are learning and following, but without any authority.

Now He needs *apostles* - *ones who are sent who have His authority.*

He will... choose a group to be with Him on a permanent basis
train them

send them out to proclaim the good news.

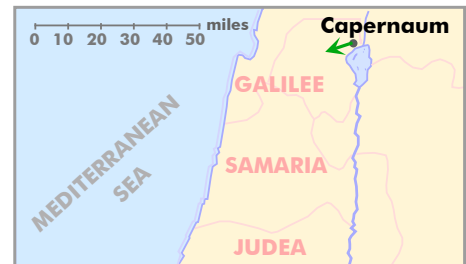
give them authority to heal to prove He is the promised Messiah. Mk. 3:14

With this in mind, Jesus leaves Capernaum and goes to a mountain some 9 miles to the southwest.

He spends all night in prayer.

Remember, He is operating out of His humanity, living in obedience to the Father and in dependence on the Holy Spirit.

He now prays for guidance and wisdom in the choices He will make.



The next morning, from among His many followers, He chooses 12 whom He calls apostles. Five of them are His original disciples.

There are the brothers **Simon** and **Andrew**, sons of a man named John.

A year and a half earlier Jesus had said eventually Simon would be steady and firm like a rock – eventually he would be *Cephas* - the Aramaic word for *rock*.

Translated into Greek, he would become **Peter**.

Another set of brothers are **James** and **John** the fishermen.

John is about 16 or 17 years old. They are sons of Zebedee.

The two fathers, John and Zebedee, are partners in a fishing business.

They own their own boats, with family and other people working for them.

The mother of James and John is Salome.

There are 2 women in Scripture named Salome - one is a very evil woman; the other is a godly woman.

The mother of James and John is the godly woman. Her sister is Mary, the mother of Jesus.

This means James and John are first cousins of Jesus. Jesus gives these brothers another name,

Boanerges, *Sons of Thunder*. Mk. 3:17

Jesus also names **Philip**

Nathanael Bartholomew

Matthew Levi, the former tax collector.

Thomas, is an Aramaic name; Didymus is his Greek name

Both names mean *twin*. We know nothing about his twin.

James, son of Alphaeus

Judas Thaddeus

Simon the Zealot

The Zealots were a resistance movement who used assassination and violence against Rome.

Imagine, a former tax collector who worked **for** Rome and a zealot violently fighting **against**

Rome are now going to work together for Jesus. They must have had some interesting conversations

Judas Iscariot

Judas from Kerioth - a town in southern Judea. He is the only apostle from Judea. All the rest are from the northern province of Galilee, around Capernaum.

After choosing the 12,

Jesus comes down to a level area on the mountain so He can teach the apostles and the people that have followed Him.

The Sermon on the Mount

Purpose - to explain God's requirement for Jews to enter His kingdom

The requirements of Moses' law as taught by the Sanhedrin was not sufficient.

God required both external and internal obedience of Moses' (God's) law.

This standard was impossible for anyone to attain - they needed a Savior.

In the **Old Testament**, the prophets said when the Jews as a nation truly obeyed God, He would send their Messiah.

He would be King over a **perfect** Kingdom.

Since the kingdom would be perfect, only those who were right with God could be in that kingdom.

That raised the question –

How could the Jews GET right with God? How could they meet God's standard of rightness?

Over the **last 400 years**, the Sanhedrin had been re-interpreting Moses' (God's) law

writing thousands of man-made laws – the Mishnah.

So now in the **first century AD**,

The **Sanhedrin** is teaching the people...

"All Israel will have a share in the age to come" meaning...

if you are born a Jew, you are automatically in God's kingdom.

But if you want a position of honor in the kingdom, you have to keep the outward letter of Moses' law.

The most effective way to do that is to keep all the Mishnah laws that they have written.

The Jewish **people** have found their religious life to be nothing but a heavy and restrictive burden.

Jesus now tells the people 2 things about the teaching of the Sanhedrin

1. What the Sanhedrin is teaching about getting right with God is not enough to get you into God's kingdom
2. What the Sanhedrin is teaching about the true requirements of Moses' law is not correct.
Unless your rightness exceeds that of the teachers of the law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:20

Notice the 2 groups He mentions - teachers of the law and Pharisees
the 2 branches of the Sanhedrin that taught and enforced the law

Thru His teaching, He will explain that no one can ever do enough or be good enough to meet God's standards.
God requires – not just **outward** obedience to His laws but also **inward** purity of thought and motive.
The only way to meet that standard is to let God change them on the inside (a new birth.)
This will happen when they believe and accept that He is their promised Messiah.

Jesus knows that will raise another question –

How can the Jews know if and when God has changed them – that they ARE right with God?

The **Sanhedrin** has been telling them – you will know it by how much you **do**.

Jesus now tells them – you will know it by your changed relationships with God and with others

He then gives

THE BEATITUDES – QUALITIES THAT PROVE GOD HAS CHANGED THEM.

Humility - poor in spirit.

This has nothing to do with a person's financial situation. It is a person who says, *Without God in my life, I would be spiritually bankrupt.* Poor in **spirit**. It is the attitude of humility, *I need Jesus in order to be right with God.*

Sensitivity to disobedience - A person grieves or mourns when they disobey God.

Meekness

In this context, it describes a person who accepts God's authority in their life rather than insisting on their own way.
Accepting God's authority in this life will give them a position of authority in God's future kingdom.

Desire to obey God - to hunger and thirst for rightness.

This does not mean perfection, but a deep and profound desire to obey.

THESE QUALITIES SHOW A PERSON IS RIGHT WITH GOD BY THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO **HIM**

Merciful - compassionate and responsive to others

-

Right Motivations in our responses to God and others - *pure in heart.*

Peace-making

This is not talking about making peace between nations at war.
Jesus is talking about their spiritual leaders who were always fighting with each other to have the most power.
Those who are right with God are not power-hungry.

Acceptance of persecution when it is the result of obeying God.

THESE QUALITIES SHOW A PERSON IS RIGHT WITH GOD BY THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH **OTHERS**

Let me emphasize. These qualities are **not** requirements to **become** right with God.
They are evidence a person **IS** right with God.

Jesus says people who have these qualities...
can be sure they will be in His kingdom
will see God
will be called sons of God
will experience complete comfort and satisfaction.
they are *blessed*.

In everyday speech the Greek word *blessed* meant *happy*.

But unfortunately in our English of today, the word *happy* has become a very superficial, shallow word.
The word *blessed* in the Bible means, *enriched by the Holy Spirit because of something we chose or do*.

Those who make a choice to repent, let God change them and develop these qualities within them will be blessed.

They will be enriched by the Holy Spirit, bringing them a happiness of contentment and fulfillment.

These qualities are in direct contrast to the history of the high priests, the leaders of the Sanhedrin over the past centuries.
God had said the role of high priest was to go to the first-born in the family line.

But over the last 400 years, younger brothers or close relatives wanted this highest power of leadership.
So they spread lies, killed the first-born, gave bribes or literally gave the Jewish nation to the Romans,
just so **they** could be high priest with absolute authority.
And while doing this, they claimed to be “sons of God”.

So Jesus tells the people,

*Spiritual leaders who are **worthy** to be called sons of God do not use violence and deceit to gain power.*

They do not fight and kill to get control.

Enriched by the Holy Spirit are those who are not power-hungry or cause disunity among believers.

*Enriched by the Holy Spirit are the peacemakers - for **they** will be called sons of God.*

Thruout Jesus' first year of ministry and up to this point in His second year, He has been presenting Himself to the Jewish people. He has come as the promised Messiah of the Old Testament. But if that were the **only** reason He came, He would have come as King in all the splendor and power of His deity.

Instead, even while still being deity,

Jesus chose to empty Himself of the splendor and power of that deity.

He chose to come into our world as a helpless human baby.

He chose to live dependent on the power of the Holy Spirit.

He chose to become obedient, to do and say only the things His Father gave Him to do and say.

He made these choices to *represent* us - to become one of us - so He could make payment in our place, for **our** sin.

He also made these choices to be *like* us. This affects the way Jesus prays for us and the way we pray to Him.

When He prays for us, He prays - not just with power of deity, but also with the empathy of humanity.

He knew what it was like to be tired or hungry, to be tempted, to grieve, to be angry, to be rejected.

He feels what we feel when He prays for us.

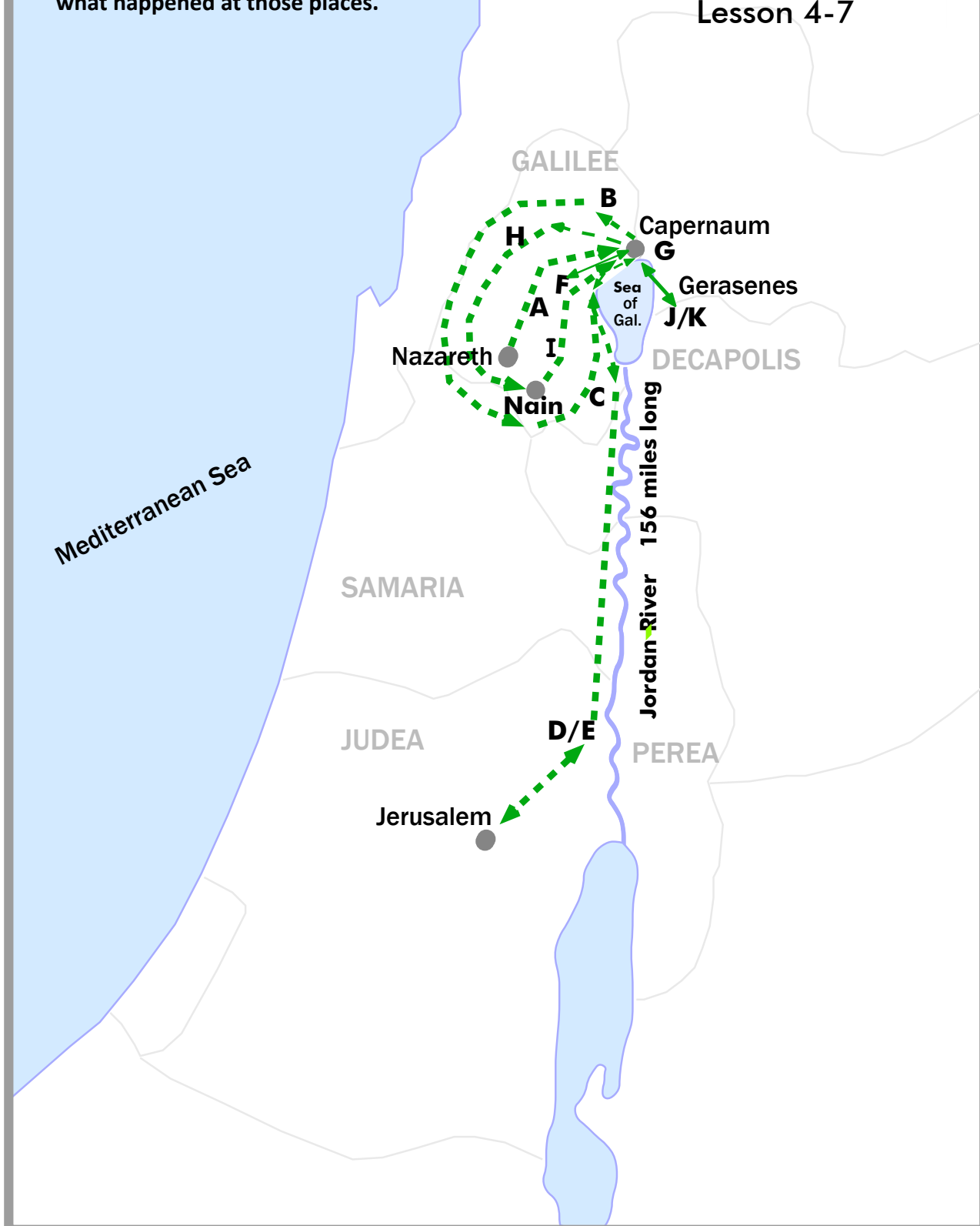
When we pray to Him, He understands how much we need His mercy and grace.

The complete map is on the next page.

The letters A-K are from the Outline on the next page. Each letter gives you the geographical locations and what happened at those places.

TRACKING JESUS in His MINISTRY - 2nd YEAR

Lesson 4-7



2nd YEAR of MINISTRY

DEVELOPED OUTLINE 2nd year 29 or 30 AD - Jesus is now 35-36 years old.

A. Nazareth to Capernaum c. 23 miles

1. Makes His residence in Capernaum Matt. 4:13
2. Calls 4 disciples to work with Him - Peter, Andrew, John and his brother, James Matt. 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11
 - ...had stayed with Jesus while in Judea and Samaria during 1st year (10 months)
 - ...had believed in Jesus and learned from Him (like a year of mentorship)
 - ...had gone back to their fishing business when they returned to Galilee
3. Teaches in the synagogue; heals a man with an evil spirit Luke 4:31-37
4. Goes to Peter's house; heals his mother-in-law Luke 4:38-39
5. Heals many who are sick Luke 4:40-41

B. Capernaum to all Galilee 1st trip Mark 1:35-45

January to March

Takes the 4 disciples; teaches; heals a leper (**Messianic miracle**)

C. Returns to Capernaum Mark 2:1-14

Heals a paralyzed man; calls Matthew

D. Capernaum to Jerusalem 85 miles

April

1. Heals a lame man; defends His authority John 5:1-47
2. Disciples eat grain on the Sabbath Luke 6:1-5

E. Jerusalem to Capernaum 85 miles

1. Heals man with deformed hand Luke 6:6-11
2. Teaches and heals by the Sea of Galilee Mark 3:7-12

F. Capernaum to mountain 9 miles SW of Capernaum

May - June

Chooses 12 apostles; gives Sermon on the Mount Matt. 5 - 7; Luke 6:20-49

G. Mountain to Capernaum 9 miles

Heals servant of Roman captain Luke 7:1-10

H. Capernaum to all Galilee 2nd trip

June to August

1. Raises widow's son in town of Nain Luke 7:11-17
2. Answers questions from John the Baptist Luke 7:18-35
3. Rebukes the unrepentant cities Matt. 11:20-30
4. Eats with Simon the Pharisee Luke 7:36-50
5. Visits all the towns and villages Luke 8:1-3

I. Returns to Capernaum

September to November

1. In Peter's house, Matt. 12:22-50
 - casts out an evil spirit (**Messianic miracle**)
 - teaches and is **formally rejected by the Sanhedrin** (unpardonable sin)
2. By the lake teaches parables Matt. 13:1-35
3. In Peter's house, alone with disciples explains parables Matt. 13:36-50

J. Capernaum to Gerasenes 10 miles Mark 4:35 - 5:20

Calms the storm; heals the demon possessed man (Legion)

K. Gerasenes to Capernaum 10 miles

1. Raises Jairus' daughter and heals a sick woman Luke 8:41-56
2. Heals 2 blind men Matt. 9:27-34
3. Heals a man unable to speak because of an evil spirit (**Messianic miracle**) Matt. 9:27-34