

Quarter 1 Lesson 4
Sixth Grade
Jesus Begins His Work
Stories included: **A. Jesus Calls His Disciples**
B. Jesus' First Recorded Miracle
C. Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Memory Verse: "And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority."

Luke 4:32 (NKJV)

Background

After Jesus' baptism and the forty days He spent in the wilderness, it was time for Him to begin His ministry. Luke 4:14-15 tells us that "**Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about Him went out through all the surrounding country. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.**" He told people, '**The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.**'" (Mark 1:15) The way in which Jesus spoke was so different from that to which the people were accustomed. He spoke with such authority and the people listened!

Soon it became time for Jesus to start calling His first disciples. This is where we begin today's lesson.

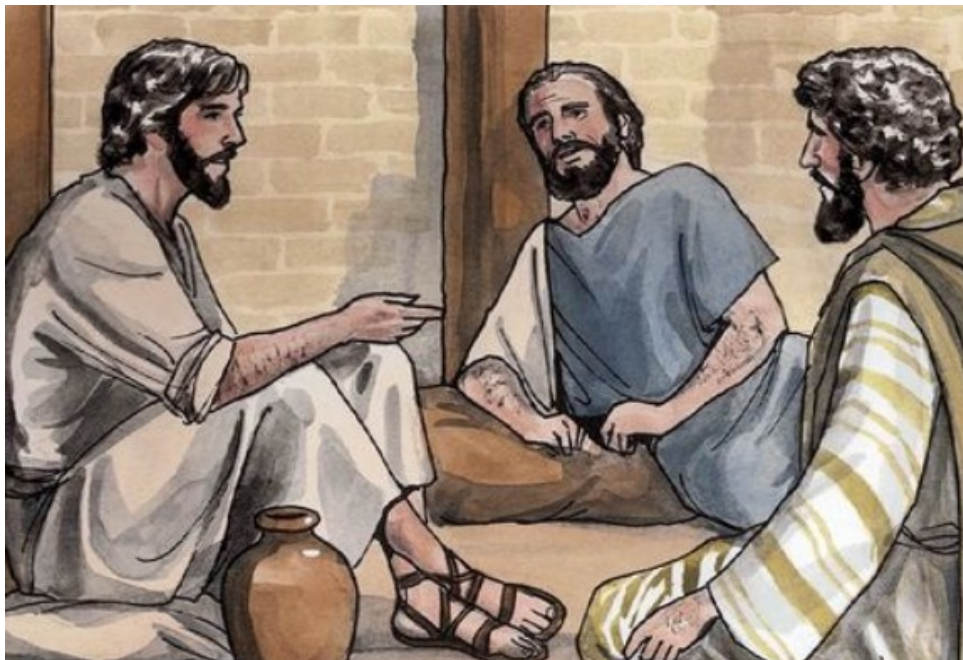
A. Jesus Calls His Disciples John 1



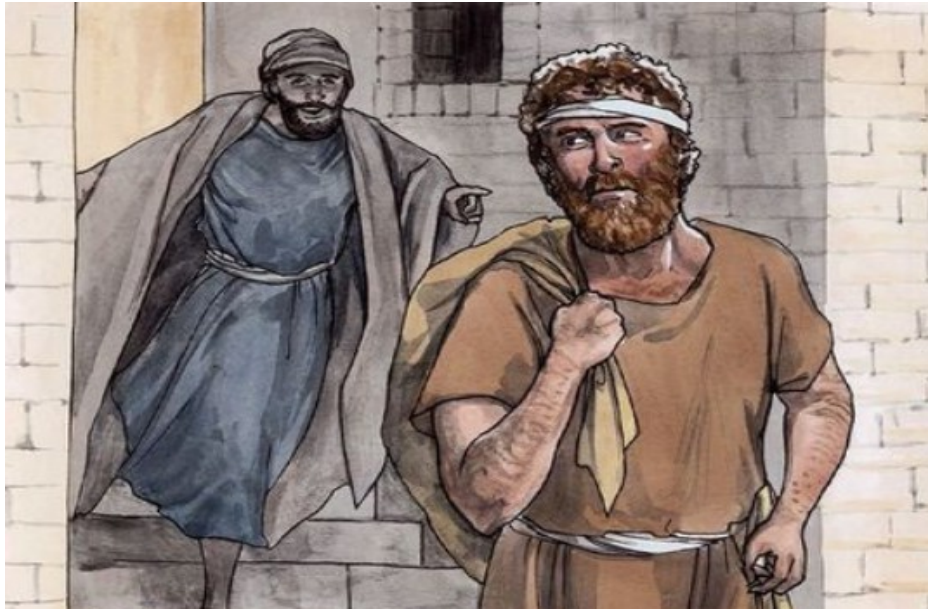
35 "Again, the next day, John [John the Baptist] stood with two of his disciples.
36 And looking at **Jesus** as He walked, he said, '**Behold the Lamb of God!**'"



*"37 The two disciples heard him speak, and **they followed Jesus.** 38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, 'What do you seek?' They said to Him, 'Rabbi' (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), 'where are You staying?' 39 He said to them, 'Come and see...'*



*...They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). [4:00 P.M.] 40 **One of the two who...followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.**"*



"41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus."
[What powerful words!]



"Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, 'You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephaz' (which is translated, a Stone)."



*"43 The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and **He found Philip** and said to him, '**Follow Me.**' 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter."*



*"45 **Philip found Nathanael** and said to him, 'We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. 46 And Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'"*



"47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, 'Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!' 48 Nathanael said to Him, 'How do You know me?' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Before Philip called you when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.' 49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, 'Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' 50 Jesus answered and said to him, 'Because I said to you, "I saw you under the fig tree," do you believe? You will see greater things than these.'"

Notice that in each instance when Jesus called these men to follow Him, they immediately left what they were doing and went after Him. Not only that, both Andrew and Philip brought others to the Lord. Isn't that what we are still supposed to be doing today--bringing others to the Lord?

According to the accounts in John and Luke, Peter and Andrew had been followers of Jesus for quite some time and had witnessed many of His miracles. In this next calling, Jesus seems now be inviting them to become His companions.

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Jesus Calls Disciples Mark 4:16-20



"16 And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw **Simon [Peter] and Andrew** his brother casting a net into the sea; for **they were fishermen.** 17 Then **Jesus** said to them, '**Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.**' "



" They immediately left their nets and followed Him."



*19 When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw **James** the son of Zebedee, **and John his brother**, who also were in the boat mending their nets.*



*20 And **immediately** He called them, and **they left** their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and **went after Him**.*

[Peter, Andrew, James, and John left their fishing business to follow Jesus. No delays. No questions asked. Their hearts were ready to follow their Savior. What about our hearts today? Are we ready to follow Jesus?]

Quarter 1 Lesson 4
B. Jesus' First Recorded Miracle John 2: 1-11



"1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there."



"2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding."



"3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, 'They have no wine.' 4 Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.'"

(Since Mary is taking such a personal interest in the wedding festivities, it seems that this event may have been in the home of a close friend or relative. Can't you just hear Jesus sweetly saying, "Now, Mother, it's not yet time..." However, Mary knew her son, and she knew Jesus would help. Had Mary ever seen Jesus perform a miracle? No. Had she ever relied on Him in times of need? For sure! Mary had no idea of what Jesus would do, but she was confident He would do something to help.)



"6 Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. 7 Jesus said to them, 'Fill the waterpots with water.' And they filled them up to the brim."

(The water in these pots was used for the guests to wash their hands before eating--not as containers to hold extra wine.)



"8 And He said to them, 'Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast.' And they took it."



*"9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (**but the servants who had drawn the water knew**),..."*

(Think about it. The servants knew they had definitely put water in the pots. They would have had to draw and carry it from whatever water source was available. So how did it turn into wine? Of course, Jesus made it happen!)



"...the master of the feast called the bridegroom. 10 And he said to him, 'Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!'"

(It was customary to serve the best wine at the beginning of the festivities and wait until later to give guests the "cheaper" stuff. However, the wine Jesus made was of such a high quality and tasted so very good. It was excellent!)

"11 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him."

(As we can see from these verses, not only did the servants know about this miracle, so did Mary and the disciples of Jesus. Would other people at the wedding have found out? Would the servants have kept it a secret, or would they have been talking about it? The scriptures don't say. However, the scriptures do tell us that Jesus' disciples had their faith in Him strengthened that day.)



Quarter 1 Lesson 4
C. Jesus Cleanses the Temple John 2:13-22



"13 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business."

(According to the law, Jews were required to offer certain animals as sacrifices during the Passover. Because many people came to Jerusalem from distant areas, they were unable to bring sacrifices with them and needed to use animals they bought in the city. They were also required to make monetary offerings using the coins of the temple. Roman coins with idol images were not allowed--hence, the need for moneychangers. This situation created a great demand which traders were ready to fill and from which they were eager to profit.)

"15 When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with sheep and the oxen,..."





"...and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables.



"16 And He said to those who sold doves, 'Take these things away! Do not make my Father's house a house of merchandise!' 17 Then His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house has eaten Me up.'" (Ps.69:9)

(It was one thing to have a business which provided a needed service for the people, but it was totally different when these transactions were being carried on inside the sacred temple of God! And the Jewish rulers were allowing this to happen!)

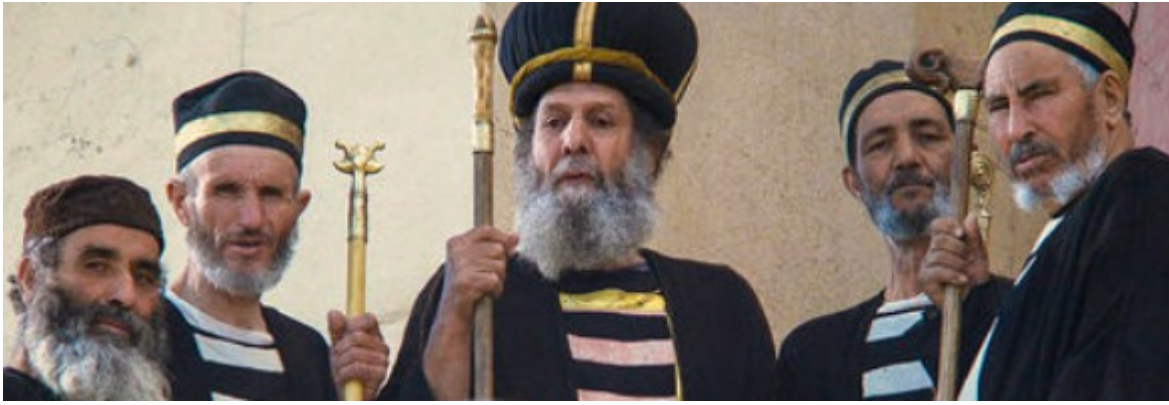


"18 So the Jews answered and said to Him, 'What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?'"

(They are basically saying, "Who do You think You are? What gives You the right to come in here making such an uproar?")



"19 Jesus answered and said to them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'"



"20 Then the Jews said, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?' 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body."

(Of course, at this time, the Jews did not understand that Jesus was talking about His body being crucified on the cross and then being resurrected on the third day. Would they remember this conversation after these things had come to pass?)



"22 Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said."

These events were just a few of the many things that happened as Jesus began His ministry. His fame spread as He went throughout all of Galilee teaching in the synagogues and proclaiming the gospel. He healed people with all kinds of sicknesses and diseases. He cast out many demons. *"Great multitudes followed Him--from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan."* (Matthew 4:25) How many of these people do you think continued to follow Jesus? How about you? Will you continue to follow Him?

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