

Lesson III.

THE APPOINTMENT OF THE TWELVE

April 21, 1912

Mark 3 : 7-19 ; Matthew 5 : 13-16—Memory Verses, Matthew 5 : 14, 15.

Golden Text—Ye did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that ye should go and bear fruit.—John 15 : 16.



7 But Je'sus withdrew himself with his disciples to the sea : and a great multitude from Gal'ilee followed him, and from Judæ'a,

8 And from Jeru'salem, and from Idumæ'a, and from beyond Jor'dan ; and they about Tyre and Si'don, a great multitude, when they had heard what great things he did, came unto him.

9 And he spake to his disciples, that a small ship should wait on him because of the multitude, lest they should throng him.

10 For he had healed many ; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had **plagues**.

11 And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.

12 And he straitly charged them that they should not make him known.

13 And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would : and they came unto him.

14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils :

16 And Si'mon he surnamed Pe'ter ;

17 And James the son of Zeb'edee, and John the brother of James ; and he surnamed them Boaner'-ges, which is, The sons of thunder :

18 And An'drew, and Phil'ip, and Barthol'omew, and Matth'ew, and Thom'as, and James the son of Alphæ'us, and Thaddæ'us, and Si'mon the Ca'naanite,

19 And Ju'das Iscar'iot, which also betrayed him : and they went into an house.

Matt. 5 : 13 Ye are the salt of the earth : but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted ? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick ; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When Jesus knew that the wicked Pharisees were plotting against Him, He went away with His disciples to the country lying on the shores of the Lake of Galilee. But from Jerusalem and from the heathen cities of Tyre and Sidon, great crowds of people came flocking there to Him, to see the wonderful works which He did or to be cured of their diseases. Sometimes, indeed, there were such crowds about Jesus that He was forced to enter one of the little boats on the edge of the lake, and from it He would speak to the people ; and those who were sick or blind or lame, He healed with a word or by His living touch.

Then, one day, Jesus went away alone to a desert place and stayed there all night praying to God. And when it was morning, He called all His followers to Him and from them He chose twelve men, who were to be with Him always as His special friends and disciples.

Jesus first told the listening people plainly, that His followers would be hated in this world for His sake, but that this should only make them glad, because, if they proved faithful, a great reward was waiting for them in heaven. The holy men in the olden times had also been treated in the same way.

And then to these twelve men Jesus gave power to heal sickness and to cast out evil spirits ; they were also to teach the people what He had taught them. The names of these twelve disciples were, Simon Peter and Andrew his brother, James and John the sons of Zebedee, Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew, James and Thaddæus, Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot. It was Judas who afterwards sold His master for a few pieces of silver.

To His disciples Jesus spoke many wise and loving words. Amongst other things, He said, that, as salt keeps food fresh and fit to