

PAPER 137
TARRYING TIME IN GALILEE

Early on Saturday morning, February 23, A.D. 26, Jesus came down from the hills to rejoin John's company encamped at Pella. All that day Jesus mingled with the multitude. He ministered to a lad who had injured himself in a fall and journeyed to the near-by village of Pella to deliver the boy safely into the hands of his parents.

1. CHOOSING THE FIRST FOUR
APOSTLES

During this Sabbath two of John's leading disciples spent much time with Jesus. Of all John's followers one named Andrew was the most profoundly impressed with Jesus; he accompanied him on the trip to Pella with the injured boy. On the way back to John's rendezvous he asked Jesus many questions, and just before reaching their destination, the two paused for a short talk, during which Andrew said: "I have observed you ever since you came to Capernaum, and I believe you are the new Teacher, and though I do not understand all your teaching, I have fully made up my mind to follow you; I would sit at your feet and learn the whole truth about the new kingdom." And Jesus, with hearty assurance, welcomed Andrew as the first of his apostles, that group of twelve who were to labor with him in the work of establishing the new kingdom of God in the hearts of men.

Andrew was a silent observer of, and sincere believer in, John's work, and he had a very able and enthusiastic brother, named Simon, who was one of John's foremost disciples. It would not be amiss to say that Simon was one of John's chief supporters.

Soon after Jesus and Andrew returned to the camp, Andrew sought out his brother, Simon, and taking him aside, informed him that he had settled in his own mind that Jesus was the great Teacher, and that he had pledged himself as a disciple. He went on to say that Jesus had accepted his proffer of service and suggested that he (Simon) likewise go to Jesus and offer himself for fellowship in the service of the new kingdom. Said Simon: "Ever since this man came to work in Zebedee's shop, I have believed he was sent by God, but what about John? Are we to forsake him? Is this the right thing to do?" Whereupon they agreed to go at once to consult John. John was saddened by the thought of losing two of his able advisers and most promising disciples, but he

POGLAVLJE 137
BORAVAK U GALILEJI

RANO u subotu ujutro, 23. veljače 26. godine p.K. Isus je sišao s planine kako bi se ponovo pridružio Ivanovim suradnicima utaborenim u Peli. Proveo je cijeli dan s masama. Nakon što je pomogao određenom mladiću koji je bio povrijeđen prilikom pada, otputovao je do obližnjeg sela Pele kako bi ga predao u ruke njegovih roditelja.

1. IZBOR PRVA ČETIRI APOSTOLA

Dva Ivanova vodeća učenika su tijekom ovog Sabata provela dosta vremena s Isusom. Od svih Ivanovih učenika, Isus je najdublje dojmio Andriju koji ga je pratio do Pele kad je Isus otišao izručiti povrijeđenog mladića. Anrija je prilikom povratku u Ivanov tabor postavio cijeli niz pitanja i kad su pred samim odredištem zakratko zastali u razgovoru, rekao je: "Promatrao sam te od dana kad si stigao u Kafarnaum i vjerujem da si novi Učitelj, i premda ne razumijem tvoja učenja u cjelosti sam te spreman slijediti; želim te blisko pratiti i od tebe naučiti cijelu istinu o novom kraljevstvu." Isus je sa svesrdnim povjerenjem poželio dobrodošlicu Andriji kao svom prvom apostolu iz dvanaestočlane grupe koja je s njim trebala raditi na upostavi novog Božjeg kraljevstva u ljudskim srcima.

Andrija je bio tihi promatrač i iskreni vjernik u Ivanov rad koji je imao vrlo sposobnog i entuzijastičnog brata Šimuna, jednog od Ivanovih vodećih učenika. Ne bi bilo zgreška reći i da je Šimun bio jedan od Ivanovih najbitnijih sponzora.

Nedugo nakon što se s Isusom vratio u logor, Andrija je potražio svog brata Šimuna, odveo ga u stranu i ispričao mu o svom uvjerenju da je Isus bio veliki Učitelj kojem je odlučio prići kao učenik. Također je rekao kako je Isus prihvatio njegovu službu predloživši da mu dođe i on (Šimun) i da se ponudi kao pripadnik novog kraljevstva. Šimun je rekao: "Od dana kad je ovaj čovjek došao u Zebedijevu radnju vjerovao sam da ga je poslao Bog, ali što je s Ivanom? Hoćemo li ga se odreći? Je li pravo tako učiniti?" Odlučili su se smjesta posavjetovati s Ivanom. Ivan je bio iznenađen vijestima da će izgubiti dva vrijedna savjetnika i dragocjena učenika, ali je hrabro odgovorio na njihova pitanja: "Ovo je

bravely answered their inquiries, saying: "This is but the beginning; presently will my work end, and we shall all become his disciples." Then Andrew beckoned to Jesus to draw aside while he announced that his brother desired to join himself to the service of the new kingdom. And in welcoming Simon as his second apostle, Jesus said: "Simon, your enthusiasm is commendable, but it is dangerous to the work of the kingdom. I admonish you to become more thoughtful in your speech. I would change your name to Peter."

The parents of the injured lad who lived at Pella had besought Jesus to spend the night with them, to make their house his home, and he had promised. Before leaving Andrew and his brother, Jesus said, "Early on the morrow we go into Galilee."

After Jesus had returned to Pella for the night, and while Andrew and Simon were yet discussing the nature of their service in the establishment of the forthcoming kingdom, James and John the sons of Zebedee arrived upon the scene, having just returned from their long and futile searching in the hills for Jesus. When they heard Simon Peter tell how he and his brother, Andrew, had become the first accepted counselors of the new kingdom, and that they were to leave with their new Master on the morrow for Galilee, both James and John were sad. They had known Jesus for some time, and they loved him. They had searched for him many days in the hills, and now they returned to learn that others had been preferred before them. They inquired where Jesus had gone and made haste to find him.

Jesus was asleep when they reached his abode, but they awakened him, saying: "How is it that, while we who have so long lived with you are searching in the hills for you, you prefer others before us and choose Andrew and Simon as your first associates in the new kingdom?" Jesus answered them, "Be calm in your hearts and ask yourselves, 'who directed that you should search for the Son of Man when he was about his Father's business?'" After they had recited the details of their long search in the hills, Jesus further instructed them: "You should learn to search for the secret of the new kingdom in your hearts and not in the hills. That which you sought was already present in your souls. You are indeed my brethren -- you needed not to be received by me -- already were you of the kingdom, and you should be of good cheer, making ready also to go with us tomorrow into Galilee." John then made bold to ask, "But,

tek početak; moj će rad s vremenom doći do kraja kad ćemo svi postati njegovi učenici." Andrija je zatim odveo Isusa u stranu kako bi ga obavijestio da je njegov brat želio prići radu na utemeljenju novog kraljevstva. I prihvatajući Šimuna kao svog drugog apostola, Isus je rekao: "Ti si, Šimune, pun poleta, ali ovaj se polet može nadвити kao prjetnja tvojim aktivnostima u korist kraljevstva. Ovim te opominjem da budeš oprezniji pri govoru. Odsad ćeš se zvati Petar."

Roditelji povrijeđenog mladića koji su živjeli u Peli zamolili su Isusa da kod njih prespava i da se osjeća kao kod svoje kuće, što je ovaj prihvatio. Prije nego što se oprostio od Andrije i njegovog brata, Isus je rekao, "Rano sutra ujutru idemo u Galileju."

Nakon što se Isus vratio da prenoći u Peli i dok su Andrija i Šimun raspravljali o prirodi njihovog rada na uspostavi kraljevstva, na scenu su stigli Zebedejevi sinovi Jakov i Ivan koji su se upravo vratili iz svoje uzaludne potrage za Isusom u brdima. Kad su od Šimuna Petra čuli kako su on i njegov brat Andrija prvi prihvaćeni kao savjetnici novog kraljevstva i kako su narednog jutra sa svojim novim Učiteljem namjeravali poći u Galileju, Jakov i Ivan su se jako rastužili. Oni su već duže vremena poznavali Isusa i jako su ga voljeli. Već dani su ga tražili u brdima i sad kad su se vratili u logor, saznali su da je Isus drugima ispoljio veću naklonost. Upitali su gdje se Isus nalazio te su ga smjesta otišli tražiti.

Isus je spavao kad su stigli do njegovog boravišta i probudili su ga riječima: "Kako je moguće da smo mi, koji smo tako dugo s tobom živjeli, za tobom morali tragati dani, dok si ti pokazao veću naklonost drugima kad su postavio Andriju i Šimuna kao tvoje prve suradnike u novom kraljevstvu? Isus je odgovorio, "Uspokojite svoja srca i sami sebe upitajte tko vas je poslao u potragu za Sinom Čovječjim dok se ovaj bavio Očevim poslom?" Nakon što su mu ispričali pojedinosti svoje duge potrage u brdima, Isus im je dalje rekao: "Trebate naučiti tragati za tajnama novog kraljevstva u svojim srcima, a ne u planinama. To za čim ste tragali se već nalazilo u vašim dušama. Vi ste već moja braća -- ne moram vas primiti -- već ste u kraljevstvu i neka vas grije radost dok se budete pripremali za putovanje u Galileju." Ivan se odvažio upitati: "Ali Učitelju, hoćemo li Jakov i ja biti tvoji suradnici u novom

Master, will James and I be associates with you in the new kingdom, even as Andrew and Simon?" And Jesus, laying a hand on the shoulder of each of them, said: "My brethren, you were already with me in the spirit of the kingdom, even before these others made request to be received. You, my brethren, have no need to make request for entrance into the kingdom; you have been with me in the kingdom from the beginning. Before men, others may take precedence over you, but in my heart did I also number you in the councils of the kingdom, even before you thought to make this request of me. And even so might you have been first before men had you not been absent engaged in a well-intentioned but self-appointed task of seeking for one who was not lost. In the coming kingdom, be not mindful of those things which foster your anxiety but rather at all times concern yourselves only with doing the will of the Father who is in heaven."

James and John received the rebuke in good grace; never more were they envious of Andrew and Simon. And they made ready, with their two associate apostles, to depart for Galilee the next morning. From this day on the term apostle was employed to distinguish the chosen family of Jesus' advisers from the vast multitude of believing disciples who subsequently followed him.

Late that evening, James, John, Andrew, and Simon held converse with John the Baptist, and with tearful eye but steady voice the stalwart Judean prophet surrendered two of his leading disciples to become the apostles of the Galilean Prince of the coming kingdom.

2. CHOOSING PHILIP AND NATHANIEL

Sunday morning, February 24, A.D. 26, Jesus took leave of John the Baptist by the river near Pella, never again to see him in the flesh.

That day, as Jesus and his four disciple-apostles departed for Galilee, there was a great tumult in the camp of John's followers. The first great division was about to take place. The day before, John had made his positive pronouncement to Andrew and Ezra that Jesus was the Deliverer. Andrew decided to follow Jesus, but Ezra rejected the mild-mannered carpenter of Nazareth, proclaiming to his associates: "The Prophet Daniel declares that the Son of Man will come with the clouds of heaven, in power and great glory. This

kraljevstvu kao Andrija i Šimun?" Polažući ruke na njihova ramena, Isus je uzvratio: "Moja braćo, već ste se samnom nalazili u duhu kraljevstva prije nego što su drugi zatražili da budu primljeni. Vi, moja braćo, ne morate tražiti da uđete u kraljevstvo; vi ste samnom bili u kraljevstvu od samog početka. Pred drugim ljudima, drugi vas mogu preteći, dok sam vas ja u svom srcu već ubrojio u vijeća kraljevstva i prije nego što ste došli na ideju da to od mene tražite. I pored toga bi bili prvi od svih da niste otišli u dobronamjernu i samoinicijativnu potragu za onim koji nikad nije bio izgubljen. U predstojećem kraljevstvu ne usmjeravajte pažnju na ono što vam stvara osjećaj tjeskobue već se bavite jedino izvršenjem volje nebeskog Oca."

Jakov i Ivan su primili ovu opomenu s puno dostojanstva; nikad više nisu zavidjeli Andriji i Šimunu. Spremno su se počeli pripremati da s drugom dvojicom apostola krenu za Galileju sutradan ujutro. Od ovog je dana korišten izraz "apostol" kako bi se naglasila razlika između odabrane obitelji Isusovih savjetnika i velikog broja vjernika koji će uskoro postati njegovi učenici.

Kasnije ove večeri, Jakov, Ivan, Andrija i Šimun su došli na razgovor s Ivanom Krstiteljem i plačnih očiju ali odlučnog glasa, odvažni Judejski prorok se oprostio od svoja dva vodeća učenika koji su upravo postali apostoli galilejskog Kneza predstojećeg kraljevstva.

2. IZBOR FILIPA I NATANIJA

U nedjelju ujutro, 24 veljače 26. godine p.K. Isus se oprostio od Ivana Krstitelja pored rijeke u blizini Pele i to je bio posljednji put da ga je vidio u ljudskom obličju.

Istog je dana, kako se Isus sa svoja četiri apostola uputio za Galileju, u logoru nastupila velika pometnja među Ivanovim učenicima. Bio je to početak prve velike podjele. Ivan je dan prije s dubokim uvjerenjem potvrdio Andriji i Ezri da je Isus bio Izručitelj. Andrija je odlučio poći za Isusom dok je Ezra odbio poći za blagonaklonim nazaretskim stolarom govoreći svojim suradnicima: "Prorok Daniel kaže da će Sin Čovječji doći s nebeskim oblacima, u moći i velikoj slavi. Ovaj galilejski stolar,

Galilean carpenter, this Capernaum boatbuilder, cannot be the Deliverer. Can such a gift of God come out of Nazareth? This Jesus is a relative of John, and through much kindness of heart has our teacher been deceived. Let us remain aloof from this false Messiah." When John rebuked Ezra for these utterances, he drew away with many disciples and hastened south. And this group continued to baptize in John's name and eventually founded a sect of those who believed in John but refused to accept Jesus. A remnant of this group persists in Mesopotamia even to this day.

While this trouble was brewing among John's followers, Jesus and his four disciple-apostles were well on their way toward Galilee. Before they crossed the Jordan, to go by way of Nain to Nazareth, Jesus, looking ahead and up the road, saw one Philip of Betsaida with a friend coming toward them. Jesus had known Philip aforetime, and he was also well known to all four of the new apostles. He was on his way with his friend Nathaniel to visit John at Pella to learn more about the reported coming of the kingdom of God, and he was delighted to greet Jesus. Philip had been an admirer of Jesus ever since he first came to Capernaum. But Nathaniel, who lived at Cana of Galilee, did not know Jesus. Philip went forward to greet his friends while Nathaniel rested under the shade of a tree by the roadside.

Peter took Philip to one side and proceeded to explain that they, referring to himself, Andrew, James, and John, had all become associates of Jesus in the new kingdom and strongly urged Philip to volunteer for service. Philip was in a quandary. What should he do? Here, without a moment's warning -- on the roadside near the Jordan -- there had come up for immediate decision the most momentous question of a lifetime. By this time he was in earnest converse with Peter, Andrew, and John while Jesus was outlining to James the trip through Galilee and on to Capernaum. Finally, Andrew suggested to Philip, "Why not ask the Teacher?"

It suddenly dawned on Philip that Jesus was a really great man, possibly the Messiah, and he decided to abide by Jesus' decision in this matter; and he went straight to him, asking, "Teacher, shall I go down to John or shall I join my friends who follow you?" And Jesus answered, "Follow me." Philip was thrilled with the assurance that he had found the Deliverer.

ovaj kafarnaumski brodograditelj, ne može biti Izručitelj. Može li takav dar Božji doći iz Nazareta? Ovaj Isus je Ivanov rođak i našeg je učitelja zavela njegova velika ljubaznost. Držimo se podalje od ovog lažnog Mesije." Kad ga je Ivan prekorio zbog ovih riječi, Ezra se povukao zajedno s velikim brojem svojih učenika i žurno pošao prema jugu. Ova je grupa nastavila krstiti u Ivanovo ime i s vremenom je položila temelje sekta koja je vjerovala u Ivana dok nije htjela priznati Isusa. Ostaci ove grupe i danas žive u Mezopotamiji.

Dok je među Ivanovim učenicima vladala velika uznemirenost, Isus i njegova četiri učenika su bili na putu prema Galileji. Prije nego što će preći rijeku Jordan na putu za Nain i Nazaret, Isus je ugledao Filipa iz Betsaide koji im je prilazio cestom s jednim prijateljem. Isus je već od prije znao Filipa, a znala su ga i ostala četiri apostola. Sa svojim prijateljem Natanaelom, Filip je otišao u posjetu Ivanu koji se nalazio u Peli, kako je od njega želio saznati o naviještenom dolasku Božjeg kraljevstva i bilo mu je drago sresti Isusa. Filip se divio Isusu od dana kad ga je prvi put sreo u Kafarnaumu. Ali Natanije, koji je živio u galilejskoj Kani, nije poznao Isusa. Filip je otišao pozdraviti svoje prijatelje dok se Natanael odmarao u sjeni drveta pored puta.

Petar je poveo Filipa u stranu nastojeći mu objasniti kako su on, Andrija, Jakov i Ivan postali Isusovi suradnici u novom kraljevstvu i snažno je nastojao ponukati Filipa da se javi na službu. Filip se našao u neprilici. Što će učiniti? Ovdje, pored puta i nedaleko od rijeke Jordana, bez časa upozorenja, morao je donijeti odluku o najvažnijem pitanju cijelog svog života. Već je bio zaokupljen živim razgovorom s Petrom, Andrijom i Ivanom dok je Isus Jakovu u glavnim crtama izlagao svoje planove vezane uz putovanje kroz Galileju i dalje do Kafarnauma. Andrija je konačno predložio Filipu, "Zašto ne odemo pitati Učitelja?"

Fili je iznenada shvatio da je Isus uistinu bio veliki čovjek, moguće i Mesija, te se odlučio povesti za Isusovom odlukom po ovom pitanju; otišao je pravo k Isusu s pitanjem, "Učitelju, hoću li otići Ivanu ili ću se pridružiti svojim prijateljima i slijediti tebe?" Isus je odvratio, "Slijedi mene." Filip je bio jako uzbuđen zbog svog uvjerenja da je našao izručitelja.

Philip now motioned to the group to remain where they were while he hurried back to break the news of his decision to his friend Nathaniel, who still tarried behind under the mulberry tree, turning over in his mind the many things which he had heard concerning John the Baptist, the coming kingdom, and the expected Messiah. Philip broke in upon these meditations, exclaiming, "I have found the Deliverer, him of whom Moses and the prophets wrote and whom John has proclaimed." Nathaniel, looking up, inquired, "Whence comes this teacher?" And Philip replied, "He is Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph, the carpenter, more recently residing at Capernaum." And then, somewhat shocked, Nathaniel asked, "Can any such good thing come out of Nazareth?" But Philip, taking him by the arm, said, "Come and see."

Philip led Nathaniel to Jesus, who, looking benignly into the face of the sincere doubter, said: "Behold a genuine Israelite, in whom there is no deceit. Follow me." And Nathaniel, turning to Philip, said: "You are right. He is indeed a master of men. I will also follow, if I am worthy." And Jesus nodded to Nathaniel, again saying, "Follow me."

Jesus had now assembled one half of his future corps of intimate associates, five who had for some time known him and one stranger, Nathaniel. Without further delay they crossed the Jordan and, going by the village of Nain, reached Nazareth late that evening.

They all remained overnight with Joseph in Jesus' boyhood home. The associates of Jesus little understood why their new-found teacher was so concerned with completely destroying every vestige of his writing which remained about the home in the form of the ten commandments and other mottoes and sayings. But this proceeding, together with the fact that they never saw him subsequently write -- except upon the dust or in the sand -- made a deep impression upon their minds.

3. THE VISIT TO CAPERNAUM

The next day Jesus sent his apostles on to Cana, since all of them were invited to the wedding of a prominent young woman of that town, while he prepared to pay a hurried visit to his mother at Capernaum, stopping at Magdala to see his brother Jude.

Before leaving Nazareth, the new associates of Jesus told Joseph and other members of Jesus' family about the wonderful

Filip je zatim domahnuo grupi da se ne pokrene s mjesta dok je on u žurbi otišao izručiti vijesti o ovoj odluci svom prijatelju Natanaelu, koji se još uvijek nalazio pod dudovim drvetom, dok je u glavi premetao mnoge stvari koje je čuo o Ivanu Krstitelju, nastupajućem kraljevstvu i iščekivanom Mesiji. Filip ga je prekinuo uzbuđenim glasom, "Našao sam Izručitelja, onog o kojem su pisali Mojsije i proroci i kojeg Ivan navješćuje." Podigavši glavu, Natanael je upitao, "Odakle dolazi ovaj učitelj?" Filip je uzvratio, "On je Isus iz Nazareta, Jozin sin, stolar koje onedavno živi u Kafarnaumu." Prilično iznenađen, Natanael je upitao, "Iz Nazareta može li što dobro izići?" Uzimajući ga pod ruku, Filip je uzvratio, "Dodi i vidi."

Filip je odveo Natanaela k Isusu koji je blago pogledao ovo lice puno iskrenih sumnji i rekao: "Vidite iskrenog Izraelca u kojem nema ništa prijevarno. Hajde za mnom." I Gledajući u Filipa, Natanael je rekao: "Bio si u pravu. On uistinu poznaje ljude. I ja ću ići za njim, ako sam toga vrijedan." Isus je potvrdno klimnuo glavom i gledajući u Natanaela ponovo rekao, "Hajde za mnom."

Isus je do sada okupio polovicu pripadnika svog budućeg zbora neposrednih suradnika, petoricu koja su ga već donekle poznavala i jednog stranca, Natanaela. Bez daljeg odlaganja, pregazili su rijeku Jordan i preko Naina stigli do Nazareta kasno uveče.

Svi su prenoćili kod Josipa u kući u kojoj je Isus odrastao. Isusovi suradnici nisu posve shvaćali zašto je njihov novostečeni učitelj tako predano nastojao uništiti sve što je nosilo njegov rukopisa što se moglo naći u kući, između ostalog Deset Zapovijedi kao i druge izreke i gesla. Ovo kao i činjenica da Isus nikad zatim nije ništa zapisao -- izuzev u prašini ili na pijesku -- ostavilo je vrlo snažan dojam na njih.

3. POSJETA KAFARNAUMU

Isus je narednog dana poslao svoje aposotle u Kanu kako su svi bili pozvani na vjenčanje djevojke koja je bila dobro poznata u ovom gradu, dok se on spremao na brzinu posjetiti svoju majku u Kafarnaumu, nakon što zastane u Magdali da posjeti svog brata Judu.

Prije nego što će napustiti Nazaret, njegovi su novi suradnici ispričali Josipu i drugim pripadnicima Isusove obitelji o skorim

events of the then recent past and gave free expression to their belief that Jesus was the long-expected deliverer. And these members of Jesus' family talked all this over, and Joseph said: "Maybe, after all, Mother was right -- maybe our strange brother is the coming king."

Jude was present at Jesus' baptism and, with his brother James, had become a firm believer in Jesus' mission on earth. Although both James and Jude were much perplexed as to the nature of their brother's mission, their mother had resurrected all her early hopes of Jesus as the Messiah, the son of David, and she encouraged her sons to have faith in their brother as the deliverer of Israel.

Jesus arrived in Capernaum Monday night, but he did not go to his own home, where lived James and his mother; he went directly to the home of Zebedee. All his friends at Capernaum saw a great and pleasant change in him. Once more he seemed to be comparatively cheerful and more like himself as he was during the earlier years at Nazareth. For years previous to his baptism and the isolation periods just before and just after, he had grown increasingly serious and self-contained. Now he seemed quite like his old self to all of them. There was about him something of majestic import and exalted aspect, but he was once again lighthearted and joyful.

Mary was thrilled with expectation. She anticipated that the promise of Gabriel was nearing fulfillment. She expected all Palestine soon to be startled and stunned by the miraculous revelation of her son as the supernatural king of the Jews. But to all of the many questions which his mother, James, Jude, and Zebedee asked, Jesus only smilingly replied: "It is better that I tarry here for a while; I must do the will of my Father who is in heaven."

In the next day, Tuesday, they all journeyed over to Cana for the wedding of Naomi, which was to take place on the following day. And in spite of Jesus' repeated warnings that they tell no man about him "until the Father's hour shall come," they insisted on quietly spreading the news abroad that they had found the Deliverer. They each confidently expected that Jesus would inaugurate his assumption of Messianic authority at the forthcoming wedding at Cana, and that he would do so with great power and sublime grandeur. They remembered what had been told them about the phenomena attendant upon

veličanstvenim događajima i slobodno su izrazili svoje uvjerenje da je Isus bio dugo iščekivani izručitelj. Isusova je obitelji kasnije žustro raspravljala ove riječi nakon čega je Josip rekao: "Možda je naposljetku Majka bila u pravu -- možda je naš neshvaćeni brat uistinu dolazeći kralj."

Juda je prisustvovao Isusovom krštenju i zajedno sa svojim bratom Jakovom postao je čvrsti vjernik u Isusovu zemaljsku misiju. Premda su Jakov i Juda bili zbunjeni prirodom misije svoga brata, u njihovoj su se majci probudila sve njezine rane nade da je Isus bio Mesija, Sin Davida, i svoje je sinove potakla da vjeruju da je njihov brat bio izručitelj Izraela.

Isus je stigao u Kafarnaum u ponedjeljak ujutro, ali se nije uputio svome domu, gdje su živjeli Jakov i njegova majka; otišao je ravno do Zebedeevih. Svi su njegovi kafarnaumski prijatelji u njemu vidjeli veliku i prijatnu promjenu. Ponovo je bio prilično dobro raspoložen i više nalik sebi samome, upravo kakav je bio za ranih godina u Nazaretu. Tijekom godina koje su prethodile krštenju i za vrijeme osame neposredno prije i poslije ovog događaja, postao je jako ozbiljan i zatvoren. Sad se svima činilo da je ponovo nalikovao samom sebi. Dok je u sebi imao osjećaj veličanstva i uzvišenosti, ponovo je bio bezbrižan i veseo.

Marija je bila prepuna iščekivanja. Nadala se da se bližilo ispunjenje Gabrielovog obećanja. Očekivala je da će uskoro cijela Palestina biti začuđena i zapanjena čudesnim otkrivenjem njezinog sina u vidu nadprirodnog kralja svih Židova. Ali na sva mnogobrojna pitanja svoje majke, Jakova, Jude i Zebedeevih, Isus je jedino s osmjehom na licu odgovorio: "Bolje je da se ovdje privremeno zadržim; moram izvršiti volju moga Oca koji je na nebu."

Narednog dana, u utorak, svi su se uputili u Kanu na vjenčanje djevojke po imenu Naomi, koje se trebalo održati narednog dana. Unatoč Isusovim neprestanim opomenama da nikome ništa ne kažu dok "ne dođe čas njegovog Oca," svi su uporno potajno širili vijesti da su pronašli Izručitelja. Svi su s velikom sigurnošću očekivali da Isus zvanično preuzme mesijansku vlast na predstojećem vjenčanju u Kani i da to učini u velikoj moći i veličanstvenoj slavi. Sjećali su se svega što su čuli o pojavama koje su pratile njegovo krštenje, vjerujući da će njegov budući put na zemlji biti obilježen sve većim ispoljenjima

his baptism, and they believed that his future course on earth would be marked by increasing manifestations of supernatural wonders and miraculous demonstrations. Accordingly, the entire countryside was preparing to gather together at Cana for the wedding feast of Naomi and Johab the son of Nathan.

Mary had not been so joyous in years. She journeyed to Cana in the spirit of the queen mother on the way to witness the coronation of her son. Not since he was thirteen years old had Jesus' family and friends seen him so carefree and happy, so thoughtful and understanding of the wishes and desires of his associates, so touchingly sympathetic. And so they all whispered among themselves, in small groups, wondering what was going to happen. What would this strange person do next? How would he usher in the glory of the coming kingdom? And they were all thrilled with the thought that they were to be present to see the revelation of the might and power of Israel's God.

4. THE WEDDING AT CANA

By noon on Wednesday almost a thousand guests had arrived in Cana, more than four times the number bidden to the wedding feast. It was a Jewish custom to celebrate weddings on Wednesday, and the invitations had been sent abroad for the wedding one month previously. In the forenoon and early afternoon it appeared more like a public reception for Jesus than a wedding. Everybody wanted to greet this near-famous Galilean, and he was most cordial to all, young and old, Jew and gentile. And everybody rejoiced when Jesus consented to lead the preliminary wedding procession.

Jesus was now thoroughly self-conscious regarding his human existence, his divine pre-existence, and the status of his combined, or fused, human and divine natures. With perfect poise he could at one moment enact the human role or immediately assume the personality prerogatives of the divine nature.

As the day wore on, Jesus became increasingly conscious that the people were expecting him to perform some wonder; more especially he recognized that his family and his six disciple-apostles were looking for him appropriately to announce his forthcoming kingdom by some startling and supernatural manifestation.

nadprirode moći i čudesnih događaja. Tako je cijela oblast planirala doći na vjenčanje kojim su se trebali uzeti Naomi i Natanaelov sin Ivab.

Marija godinama nije bila tako sretna. Putovala je u Kanu zaokupljena duhom kraljice-majke koja je upravo trebala posvjedočiti ustoličenje svoga sina. Od njegove trinaeste godine, njegova obitelj i prijatelji nisu vidjeli Isusa u tako bezbrižnom i srećnom razpoloženju, punom razumijevanja za želje i iščekivanja svojih suradnika, tako dirljivo suosjećajnog. I tako su se među sobom u malim grupama došaptavali, čudeći se što će se dalje dogoditi. Kakav će biti naredni potez ove čudne osobe? Kako će uvesti slavu predstojećeg kraljevstva? Sviju je zanosila uzbudljiva misao da će uskoro vidjeti otkrivenje moći i slave Izraelovog Boga.

4. SVADBA U KANI

U srijedu prije podne u Kanu je stiglo gotovo tisuću ljudi, više od četiri puta broj izvornih uzvanika. Svadba se prema židovskom običaju trebala održati u srijedu i pozivnice su odaslane mjesec dana unaprijed. Tijekom jutra i ranog prijepodneva činilo se da je većina svijeta došla ne toliko na svadbu već kako bi odala javno priznanje Isusu. Svi su htjeli uručiti pozdrave ovom Galilejcu čiji se ugled bližio slavi i on se prema svima odnosio vrlo srdačno, prema mladima i starima, prema Židovima i nežidovima. Svima je bilo jako drago kad je Isus pristao predsjedavati nad uvodnom ceremonijom.

Isus je u ovom razdoblju bio potpuno svjestan svoje ljudske egzistencije, svoje božanske predegzistencije i svoje združene ili spojene ljudske i božanske prirode. Sa savršenom je ravnotežnom bio u stanju jednog časa igrati svoju ljudsku ulogu a drugog preuzeti povlastice ličnosti svoje božanske prirode.

Isus je iz časa u čas postajao sve svjesniji činjenice da su se ljudi okupili u iščekivanju čuda; osobito je uviđao da su njegova obitelj i njegovih šest apostola očekivali da nekom čudesnom i nadprirodnom pojavom objavi nastupajuće kraljevstvo.

Early in the afternoon Mary summoned James, and together they made bold to approach Jesus to inquire if he would admit them to his confidence to the extent of informing them at what hour and at what point in connection with the wedding ceremonies he had planned to manifest himself as the "supernatural one." No sooner had they spoken of these matters to Jesus than they saw they had aroused his characteristic indignation. He said only: "If you love me, then be willing to tarry with me while I wait upon the will of my Father who is in heaven." But the eloquence of his rebuke lay in the expression of his face.

This move of his mother was a great disappointment to the human Jesus, and he was much sobered by his reaction to her suggestive proposal that he permit himself to indulge in some outward demonstration of his divinity. That was one of the very things he had decided not to do when so recently isolated in the hills. For several hours Mary was much depressed. She said to James: "I cannot understand him; what can it all mean? Is there no end to his strange conduct?" James and Jude tried to comfort their mother, while Jesus withdrew for an hour's solitude. But he returned to the gathering and was once more lighthearted and joyous.

The wedding proceeded with a hush of expectancy, but the entire ceremony was finished and not a move, not a word, from the honored guest. Then it was whispered about that the carpenter and boatbuilder, announced by John as "the Deliverer," would show his hand during the evening festivities, perhaps at the wedding supper. But all expectance of such a demonstration was effectually removed from the minds of his six disciple-apostles when he called them together just before the wedding supper and, in great earnestness, said: "Think not that I have come to this place to work some wonder for the gratification of the curious or for the conviction of those who doubt. Rather are we here to wait upon the will of our Father who is in heaven." But when Mary and the others saw him in consultation with his associates, they were fully persuaded in their own minds that something extraordinary was about to happen. And they all sat down to enjoy the wedding supper and the evening of festive good fellowship.

The father of the bridegroom had provided plenty of wine for all the guests bidden to the marriage feast, but how was he to know that the marriage of his son was to become an event so closely associated with the

Marija je za ranog prijepodneva pozvala Jakova i zajedno su se odvažili otići k Isusu i tražiti da im u povjerenju kaže kada i u kojem dijelu svadbene ceremonije je planirao ispoljiti svoju "nadprirodnost." Tek što su završili s pitanjem mogli su vidjeti da su njome dali povoda njegovom tipičnom negodovanju. Isus je jedino uzvratio: "Ako me volite, bit ćete voljni samnom pričekati uspoljenje volje mog nebeskog Oca." Istinska rječitost njegove poruke počivala je u izrazu njegovog lica.

Ovo je djelo njegove majke jako razočaralo Isusovu ljudsku prirodu, dok ga je jako rastužila vlastita reakcija na njezin povodljivi prijedlog da si dopusti bilo kakvo ispoljenje božanstvenosti. Upravo u tom je počivala jedna od odluka koje je donio tijekom svoje osame. Mariju je poslije ove Isusove reakcije provela nekoliko sati u stanju potištenosti. Rekla je Jakovu: "Ja ga nikako ne razumijem; što sve ovo treba da znači? Ima li kraja njegovom čudnom ponašanju?" Jakov i Juda su nastojali utješiti svoju majku dok se Isus cijeli sat povukao u osamu. Ali po povratku je ponovo bio veseo i razpoložen.

Dok je svadba nastavil teći u duhu iščekivanja, počasni gost nije rekao ni riječi tijekom cijele ceremonije, od početka do kraja. Zatim se počela širiti vijest da će ovaj stolar i brodograditelj kojeg je Ivan proglasio "Izručiteljem" pokazati svoju moć tijekom večernjih svečanosti, moguće za vrijeme svadbene večere. Ali šestorica učenika i apostola su izgubili svaku nadu u ispunjenje očekivanih predskazanja kad ih je Isus pozvao neposredno prije večere i kad im je najiskrenije rekao: "Nemojte misliti da sam ovamo došao izvoditi čuda kako bi zadovoljio radoznale ili uvjerio nevjernike. Prije smo ovdje došli kako bi sačekali na volju našeg Oca koji je na nebu." Ali kad su Marija i drugi uzvanici vidjeli kako se Isus savjetuje sa svojim suradnicima, bili su posve uvjereni da će vidjeti nešto nadprirodno. Svi su se s velikom radošću posvetili svadbenom jelu i ovoj večernjoj prilici za ugodno druženje.

Dok je zaručnikov otac obezbijedio dovoljnu količinu vina svim gostima koji su pozvani na svadbu, on nije mogao znati da će svadba njegova sina postati usko povezana s iščekivanom objavom Isusa kao

expected manifestation of Jesus as the Messianic deliverer? He was delighted to have the honor of numbering the celebrated Galilean among his guests, but before the wedding supper was over, the servants brought him the disconcerting news that the wine was running short. By the time the formal supper had ended and the guests were strolling about in the garden, the mother of the bridegroom confided to Mary that the supply of wine was exhausted. And Mary confidently said: "Have no worry -- I will speak to my son. He will help us." And thus did she presume to speak, notwithstanding the rebuke of but a few hours before.

Throughout a period of many years, Mary had always turned to Jesus for help in every crisis of their home life at Nazareth so that it was only natural for her to think of him at this time. But this ambitious mother had still other motives for appealing to her eldest son on this occasion. As Jesus was standing alone in a corner of the garden, his mother approached him, saying, "My son, they have no wine." And Jesus answered, "My good woman, what have I to do with that?" Said Mary, "But I believe your hour has come; cannot you help us?" Jesus replied: "Again I declare that I have not come to do things in this wise. Why do you trouble me again with these matters?" And then, breaking down in tears, Mary entreated him, "But, my son, I promised them that you would help us; won't you please do something for me?" And then spoke Jesus: "Woman, what have you to do with making such promises? See that you do it not again. We must in all things wait upon the will of the Father in heaven."

Mary the mother of Jesus was crushed; she was stunned! As she stood there before him motionless, with the tears streaming down her face, the human heart of Jesus was overcome with compassion for the woman who had borne him in the flesh; and bending forward, he laid his hand tenderly upon her head, saying: "Now, now, Mother Mary, grieve not over my apparently hard sayings, for have I not many times told you that I have come only to do the will of my heavenly Father? Most gladly would I do what you ask of me if it were a part of the Father's will --" and Jesus stopped short, he hesitated. Mary seemed to sense that something was happening. Leaping up, she threw her arms around Jesus' neck, kissed him, and rushed off to the servants' quarters, saying, "Whatever my son says, that do." But Jesus said nothing. He now realized that he had already said -- or rather desirefully thought -- too much.

mesijanskog izručitelja. Dok mu je bilo čast i radost izraziti dobrodošlicu ovom slavnom Galilejcu, sluge su mu prije kraja večere donijele obeshrabrujuće vijesti da im je ostalo još samo malo vina. Na kraju zvaničnog objeda, dok su se gosti šetali vrtom, zaručnikova majka je povjerljivo rekla Mariji da su ostali bez vina. Marija je uvjerljivo odvrtila: "Ništa ne brini -- razgovarat ću sa sinom. On će nam pomoći." I stvarno je s njim namjeravala razgovarati, unatoč prijekoru koji je ranije primila od Isusa.

Marija se tijekom mnogo godina uvijek obraćala Isusu za pomoć pri svakoj kritičnoj situaciji u njihovom nazaretskom domu, tako da joj je bilo posve prirodno ponovo k njemu otići. Ali ova je ambiciozna majka imala još jedan motiv kad je otišla zatražiti pomoć od svog sina. Dok je Isus sam stajao u uglu vrta, majka mu je prišla s riječima, "Moj sine, nemaju vina." I Isus je odgovorio, "Moja dobra žena, što se to mene tiče?" Marija je uzvratila, "Ali vjerujem da je tvoj čas došao; zar nam ne možeš pomoći?" Isus je odvratio: "Ponavljam da nisam došao činiti ovakve stvari. Zašto mi ponovo dosađuješ s takvim pitanjima?" I očiju punih suza, Marija mu se obratila preklinjući, "Ali sine moj, ja sam im obećala tvoju pomoć; hoćeš li, molim te, ovo za mene učiniti?" I Isus joj je rekao: "Ženo, kako si ti mogla tako nešto obećati? Da to nikad više nisi učinila. Pri svemu moramo sačekati na volju Oca na nebu."

Isusova majka Marija je bila jako pogođena; bila je zaprepaštena! Dok je pred njim nepomično stajala očiju punih suza koje su se kotrljale niz obraze, Isusovo ljudsko srce je bilo preplavljeno samilošću prema ženi koja ga je rodila; i prignuvši se prema njoj, nježno je položio ruku na njezinu kosu govoreći, "Hajde, hajde, Marijo majko, ne plači zbog mojih naočigled oštih riječi, jer koliko sam ti puta rekao da sam došao učiniti jedino volju mog nebeskog Oca? Rado bih učinio to što od mene tražiš da je tvoja želja u skladu s Očevom voljom," i Isus je tu neodlučno zastao. Marija je imala osjećaj da se u međuvremenu odigralo nešto vrlo čudno. Poskočivši, stavila je ruke oko Isusovog vrata, poljubila ga i požurila prema slugama govoreći, "Što god moj sin kaže da će učiniti, on to učini." A Isus nije rekao ni riječi. Upravo je spoznao da je ustvari već rekao -- ili bolje reći željno pomislio -- previše.

Mary was dancing with glee. She did not know how the wine would be produced, but she confidently believed that she had finally persuaded her first-born son to assert his authority, to dare to step forth and claim his position and exhibit his Messianic power. And, because of the presence and association of certain universe powers and personalities, of which all those present were wholly ignorant, she was not to be disappointed. The wine Mary desired and which Jesus, the God-man, humanly and sympathetically wished for, was forthcoming.

Near at hand stood six waterpots of stone, filled with water, holding about twenty gallons apiece. This water was intended for subsequent use in the final purification ceremonies of the wedding celebration. The commotion of the servants about these huge stone vessels, under the busy direction of his mother, attracted Jesus' attention, and going over, he observed that they were drawing wine out of them by the pitcherful.

It was gradually dawning upon Jesus what had happened. Of all persons present at the marriage feast of Cana, Jesus was the most surprised. Others had expected him to work a wonder, but that was just what he had purposed not to do. And then the Son of Man recalled the admonition of his Personalized Thought Adjuster in the hills. He recounted how the Adjuster had warned him about the inability of any power or personality to deprive him of the creator prerogative of independence of time. On this occasion power transformers, midwayers, and all other required personalities were assembled near the water and other necessary elements, and in the face of the expressed wish of the Universe Creator Sovereign, there was no escaping the instantaneous appearance of wine. And this occurrence was made doubly certain since the Personalized Adjuster had signified that the execution of the Son's desire was in no way a contravention of the Father's will.

But this was in no sense a miracle. No law of nature was modified, abrogated, or even transcended. Nothing happened but the abrogation of time in association with the celestial assembly of the chemical elements requisite for the elaboration of the wine. At Cana on this occasion the agents of the Creator made wine just as they do by the ordinary natural processes except that they did it independently of time and with the intervention of superhuman agencies in the

Marija je poskakivala od radosti. Nije znala kako je Isus mogao napraviti vino, ali je pouzdano vjerovala da je konačno nagovorila svog prvorođenog sina da ispolji svoju moć, da se usudi preuzeti stvari u svoje ruke, potvrditi svoju poziciju i ispoljiti svoju mesijansku moć. Zahvaljujući prisutnosti i povezanosti određenih kozmičkih sila i ličnosti o kojima nitko od uzvanika nije ništa znao, Marija nije ostala razočarana. Vino koje je Marija željela i koje je Isus, Bog-čovjek, na ljudski i suosjećajan način poželio, je bilo u procesu stvaranja.

U blizini je stajalo šest kamenih posuda napunjenih vodom od kojih je svaka obuhvaćala dvadeset galona. Ova je voda bila namijenjena za uobičajeno pranje u okviru završnog dijela svadbene ceremonije očišćenja. Isusovu pažnju je privuklo uzbuđenje koje je pod žustrom upravom njegove majke vladalo oko ovih velikih kamenih posuda i kad im je prišao, izbliza se mogao uvjeriti da su sluge iz njih vadile vrčeve pune vina.

Isus je polako počeo shvaćati što se upravo dogodilo. Od svih uzvanika na svadbi u Kani, Isus je bio najviše iznenađen. Drugi se očekivali da Isus učini čudo, ali to je bilo upravo ono što on nije namjeravao učiniti. Sin Čovječji se zatim prisjetio opomene koju je primio od svog Personificiranog Ispravljača da mu ni jedna moć ili osoba ne mogu oduzeti povlastica koje je uživao kao stvoritelj, a koje nisu bile ograničene elementom vremena. Ovom prilikom, pored vode i drugih bitnih sastojaka okupili su se upravitelji moći, midvejeri i sve druge neophodne ličnosti i čim su čule kako Suvereni Kozmički Stvoritelj izražava želju, istog časa se neminovno moralo pojaviti vino. I ovaj je se događaj naročito bio neminovan zbog toga što je Personificirani Ispravljač doznačio da se izvršenje Sinove volje ni na koji način nije protivilo Očevoj volji.

Ali ovaj događaj ni po čemu nije bio čudnovat. Ovim nije promijenjen, poništen ili narušen ni jedan prirodni zakon. Jedino što se dogodilo je bilo ubrzanje vremenskog procesa kojim nebeska bića prikupljanju kemijske elemente od kojih se pravi vino. Stvoriteljevi pomagači su ovom prilikom napravili vino jednakim prirodnim procesom koji se normalno koristi u ovom cilju, izuzev što pri tome nisu bili uvjetovani elementom vremena i što su pri spajanju neophodnih kemijskih

matter of the space assembly of the necessary chemical ingredients.

Furthermore it was evident that the enactment of this so-called miracle was not contrary to the will of the Paradise Father, else it would not have transpired, since Jesus had already subjected himself in all things to the Father's will.

When the servants drew this new wine and carried it to the best man, the "ruler of the feast," and when he had tasted it, he called to set out first the good wine and, when the guests have well drunk, to bring forth the inferior fruit of the vine; but you have kept the best of the wine until the last of the feast."

Mary and the disciples of Jesus were greatly rejoiced at the supposed miracle which they thought Jesus had intentionally performed, but Jesus withdrew to a sheltered nook of the garden and engaged in serious thought for a few brief moments. He finally decided that the episode was beyond his personal control under the circumstances and, not being adverse to his Father's will, was inevitable. When he returned to the people, they regarded him with awe; they all believed in him as the Messiah. But Jesus was sorely perplexed, knowing that they believed in him only because of the unusual occurrence which they had just inadvertently beheld. Again Jesus retired for a season to the housetop that he might think it all over.

Jesus now fully comprehended that he must constantly be on guard lest his indulgence of sympathy and pity become responsible for repeated episodes of this sort. Nevertheless, many similar events occurred before the Son of Man took final leave of his mortal life in the flesh.

5. BACK IN CAPERNAUM

Though many of the guests remained for the full week of wedding festivities, Jesus, with his newly chosen disciple-apostles -- James, John, Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathaniel -- departed very early the next morning for Capernaum, going away without taking leave of anyone. Jesus' family and all his friends in Cana were much distressed because he so suddenly left them, and Jude, Jesus' youngest brother, set out in search of him. Jesus and his apostles went directly to the home of Zebedee at Bethsaida. On this journey Jesus talked over many things of importance to sastojaka upotrijebili nadljudske sile.

Dalje, bilo je očigledno da se izvršenje ovog tobožnjeg čuda nije protivilo volji Rajskog Oca jer se u tom slučaju događaj ne bi moglo odigrati kako je Isus po svakom pitanju sebe podvrgao Očevoj volji.

Kad su sluge nasule ovog novog vina i odnijele ga djeveru, "ravnatelju stola," i kad ga je ovaj kušao, upitao je zaručnika: "Svatko najprije iznosi dobro vino, a kad se ljudi ponapiju, onda sipa lošije. Ti si čuvao dobro vino za kraj svečanosti."

I Marija i Isusovi učenici su bili jako srećni zbog ovog tobožnjeg čuda za koje su vjerovali da je bilo Isusovo svjesno djelo dok se Isus povukao u zaklonjeni kraj vrta kako bi u miru mogao nakratko promisliti. Konačno je odlučio da pod postojećim uvjetima ovaj događaj nije bio pod njegovom osobnom kontrolom i da je bio neminovan kako se nije protivio Očevoj volji. Kad se vratio među okupljene, svi su ga promatrali s velikim divljenjem; vjerovali su da je Isus bio Mesija. Ali Isus je bio u dubokoj nedoumici, znajući da su u njega vjerovali jedino zbog nesvakidašnjeg događaja koji se upravo nenamjerno odigrao pred njihovim očima. Isus se ponovo povukao u gornje odaje kako bi o svemu nasamo promislilo.

Isus je ovom prilikom potpuno razumio kako uvijek mora biti na oprezu da ne dopusti osjećajima naklonosti i sažaljenja da izazovu slične posljedice. Ali I pored ove odluke tijekom ostatka njegovog smrtničkog života u tjelesnom obličju odigralo se više sličnih događaja.

5. POVRATAK U KAFARNAUM

Premda je cijeli tjedan u Kani ostalo više uzvanika do samog kraja svadbene svečanosti, Isus se sa svojim novoodabranim apostolima -- Jakovom, Ivanom, Andrijom, Petrom, Filipom i Natanijem -- bez riječi pozdrava sutradan rano ujutro uputio u Kafarnaum. Isusova obitelj i svi njegovi prijatelji u Kani su bili jako tužni što ih je tako iznenadno ostavio i za njim je pošao Juda, Isusov najmlađi brat. Isus i njegovi apostoli su otišli direktno Zebedejevoj kući u Betsaida. Isus je na ovom putovanju sa svojim novoizabranim suradnicima razgovarao o

the coming kingdom with his newly chosen associates and especially warned them to make no mention of the turning of the water into wine. He also advised them to avoid the cities of Sepphoris and Tiberias in their future work.

After supper that evening, in this home of Zebedee and Salome, there was held one of the most important conferences of all Jesus' earthly career. Only the six apostles were present at this meeting; Jude arrived as they were about to separate. These six chosen men had journeyed from Cana to Bethsaida with Jesus, walking, as it were, on air. They were alive with expectancy and thrilled with the thought of having been selected as close associates of the Son of Man. But when Jesus set out to make clear to them who he was and what was to be his mission on earth and how it might possibly end, they were stunned. They could not grasp what he was telling them. They were speechless; even Peter was crushed beyond expression. Only the deep-thinking Andrew dared to make reply to Jesus' words of counsel. When Jesus perceived that they did not comprehend his message, when he saw that their ideas of the Jewish Messiah were so completely crystallized, he sent them to their rest while he walked and talked with his brother Jude. And before Jude took leave of Jesus, he said with much feeling: "My father-brother, I never have understood you. I do not know of a certainty whether you are what my mother has taught us, and I do not fully comprehend the coming kingdom, but I do know you are a mighty man of God. I heard the voice at the Jordan, and I am a believer in you, no matter who you are." And when he had spoken, he departed, going to his own home at Magdala.

That night Jesus did not sleep. Donning his evening wraps, he sat out on the lake shore thinking, thinking until the dawn of the next day. In the long hours of that night of meditation Jesus came clearly to comprehend that he never would be able to make his followers see him in any other light than as the long-expected Messiah. At last he recognized that there was no way to launch his message of the kingdom except as the fulfillment of John's prediction and as the one for whom the Jews were looking. After all, though he was not the Davidic type of Messiah, he was truly the fulfillment of the prophetic utterances of the more spiritually minded of the olden seers. Never again did he wholly deny that he was the Messiah. He decided to leave the final untangling of this complicated situation to the outworking of the Father's will.

mnogim bitnim stvarima vezanim uz predostojeće nebesko kraljevstvo i osobito ih je upozorio da nikome ne pominju kako je pretvorio vodu u vino. Također ih je upozorio da za budućeg rada izbjegavaju gradove Seforis i Tiberijadu.

Te noći poslije večere u domu Zebedeja i Šalome, održana je jedna od najbitnijih sjednica cijelog Isusovog zemaljskog puta. Ovom je sastanku prisustvovalo jedino šest apostola; Juda je stigao upravo prije kraja. Šestorica odabranih učenika su putovali s Isusom od Kane do Betsaide, tako reći, idući po zraku. Bili su puni iščekivanja i uzbuđeni mislju da su bili odabrani kao pratioci Sin Čovječjeg. Ali bili su zaprepašteni kad im je Isus počeo objašnjavati svoj identitet i ulogu svoje misije na zemlji i njezinog nastupajućeg svršetka. Nisu mogli shvatiti to što im je govorio. Nisu mogli naći riječi; čak je i Petar bio neizrecivo pogođen. Jedino se dubokoumni Andrija usudio uzvratiti na Isusove riječi. Kad je Isus supoznao da nisu razumjeli njegovu poruku, kad je uvidjeo da su njihove ideje o židovskom Mesiji bile posve kristalizirane, poslao ih je na počinak dok je otišao u šetnju i na razgovor sa svojim bratom Judom. I prije nego što se Juda oprostio od Isusa, bio je duboko ganut rekavši: "Ti su moj otac i brat, a ja te nikad nisam mogao razumjeti. Nisam siguran da si ono što nas je mati učila i nisam posve u stanju shvatiti dolazeće kraljevstvo, ali znam da si moćni čovjek od Boga. Čuo sam glas na Jordanu i vjerujem u tebe, tko god da si." I kad je ovo rekao, vratio se kući u Magdalu.

Isus je proveo besanu noć. Obučen u noćnu haljinu, sjedio je pored jezera zaokupljen dubokim mislima, milima koje je prevrtao po glavi sve do jutra. Tijekom dugih časova ove noćne meditacije, Isus je jasno spoznao da svoje učenike nikad neće moći navesti da u njemu vide bilo što drugo osim dugo oščekivanog Mesije. Konačno je uviđao da neće biti u stanju proglasiti svoju poruku ako sebe ne predoči ispunjenjem Ivanovog pretkazanja i kao onoga kojeg su Židovi dugo očekivali. Naposljetku, premda nije bio Mesija koji će sjesti u Davidovu stolicu, uistinu je bio ispunjenje proročkih izreka duhovnijih mudraca iz davnine. Nikad više nije posve zanijekao da je bio Mesija. Odlučio je ostaviti konačno razrješenje ove složene situacije prema Očevoj volji.

The next morning Jesus joined his friends at breakfast, but they were a cheerless group. He visited with them and at the end of the meal gathered them about him, saying: "It is my Father's will that we tarry hereabouts for a season. You have heard John say that he came to prepare the way for the kingdom; therefore it behooves us to await the completion of John's preaching. When the forerunner of the Son of Man shall have finished his work, we will begin the proclamation of the good tidings of the kingdom." He directed his apostles to return to their nets while he made ready to go with Zebedee to the boatshop, promising to see them the next day at the synagogue, where he was to speak, and appointing a conference with them that Sabbath afternoon.

6. THE EVENTS OF A SABBATH DAY

Jesus' first public appearance following his baptism was in the Capernaum synagogue on Sabbath, March 2, A.D. The synagogue was crowded to overflowing. The story of the baptism in the Jordan was now augmented by the fresh news from Cana about the water and the wine. Jesus gave seats of honor to his six apostles, and seated with them were his brothers in the flesh James and Jude. His mother, having returned to Capernaum with James the evening before, was also present, being seated in the women's section of the synagogue. The entire audience was on edge; they expected to behold some extraordinary manifestation of supernatural power which would be a fitting testimony to the nature and authority of him who was that day to speak to them. But they were destined to disappointment.

When Jesus stood up, the ruler of the synagogue handed him the Scripture roll, and he read from the Prophet Isaiah: "Thus says the Lord: 'The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house that you built for me? And where is the place of my dwelling? All these things have my hands made,' says the Lord. 'But to this man will I look, even to him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at my word.' Hear the word of the Lord, you who tremble and fear: 'Your brethren hated you and cast you out for my name's sake.' But let the Lord be glorified. He shall appear to you in joy, and all others shall be ashamed. A voice from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice from the Lord says: 'Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.' Who has heard such a thing? Shall

Narednog jutra Isus se pridružio svojim prijateljima prilikom doručka, premda među njima nije bilo radosti. Proveli su vrijeme u razgovoru i on ih je nakon obroka okupio govoreći: "Volja moga Oca hoće da se ovdje zadržimo određeno vrijeme. Čuli ste kako je Ivan rekao da je došao pripremiti put kraljevstvu; stoga nam priliči sačekati kraj Ivanovog učenja. Nakon što prethodnik Sina Čovječjeg dovrši svoj rad, možemo početi proglašavati radosnu vijest kraljevstva." Rekao je apostolima da se vrate svojim mrežama dok se sam spremio uputiti sa Zebedejem u brodograditeljsku radionicu, obećavši da će ih vidjeti narednog dana u sinagogi gdje je trebao održati govor, te je zakazao zajedničku sjednicu za subotu poslije podne.

6. DOGAĐAJI U SUBOTU

Prva Isusova javna pojava nakon krštenja trebala se odigrati u kafarnaumskoj sinagogi 2. ožujka 26. godine p.K. Sinagoga je bila prepuna svjeta. Povrh priče o krštenju u Jordanu ljudi su sada dodali svježe vjesti iz Kane, priču o vodi i vinu. Isus je dao počasna mjesta šestorici apostola pored kojih su sjedila njegova dva brata po krvi, Jakov i Juda. Među prisutnima je bila i njegova majka koja se prethodne večeri s Jakovom vratila u Kafarnaum i koja je sjedila u ženskom dijelu sinagoge. Svi prisutni su bili prepuni iščekivanja; očekivali su ukazanje nekog čudnovatog ispoljenja nadprirodne moći koja bi bila prikladno posvjedočila o prirodi i autoritetu onoga koji im je došao održati govor. Ali svi su bili osuđeni na razočaranje.

Kad je Isus ustao, ravnatelj sinagoge mu je pružio smotak Pisama i Isus je počeo čitati iz proroka Izaije: "'Ovako govori Gospod: Nebesa su moje prijestolje a zemlja podnožje nogama! Kakvu kuću da mi sagradite i gdje da bude mjesto moga prebivališta? Ta sve je moja ruka načinila,' kaže Gospod. 'Ali na ovog čovjeka svoj pogled svraćam, na siromaha i čovjeka duha ponizna, koji od moje riječi dršće.' Poslušajte riječ Jahvinu, vi koji od njegove riječi drščete. 'Govore braća vaša koja na vas mrze i odbacuju vas radi moga imena.' Neka se proslavi Gospod pa da radost vašu vidimo, a oni će svi biti postidjeni. Čuj! Buka iz grada, glas iz hrama, glas je to Gospoda koji kaže: 'Prije nego bolove očuje, eto je rodila; prije neg trudove osjeti, porodi dječaka.' Tko je takvo što čuo? Može li se zemlja u jednom

the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or can a nation be born at once? But thus says the Lord: 'Behold I will extend peace like a river, and the glory of even the gentiles shall be like a flowing stream. As one whom his mother comforts, so will I comfort you. And you shall be comforted even in Jerusalem. And when you see these things, your heart shall rejoice.'"

When he had finished this reading, Jesus handed the roll back to its keeper. Before sitting down, he simply said: "Be patient and you shall see the glory of God; even so shall it be with all those who tarry with me and thus learn to do the will of my Father who is in heaven." And the people went to their homes, wondering what was the meaning of all this.

That afternoon Jesus and his apostles, with James and Jude, entered a boat and pulled down the shore a little way, where they anchored while he talked to them about the coming kingdom. And they understood more than they had on Thursday night.

Jesus instructed them to take up their regular duties until "the hour of the kingdom comes." And to encourage them, he set an example by going back regularly to work in the boatshop. In explaining that they should spend three hours every evening in study and preparation for their future work, Jesus further said: "We will all remain hereabout until the Father bids me call you. Each of you must now return to his accustomed work just as if nothing had happened. Tell no man about me and remember that my kingdom is not to come with noise and glamor, but rather must it come through the great change which my Father will have wrought in your hearts and in the hearts of those who shall be called to join you in the councils of the kingdom. You are now my friends; I trust you and I love you; you are soon to become my personal associates. Be patient, be gentle. Be ever obedient to the Father's will. Make yourselves ready for the call of the kingdom. While you will experience great joy in the service of my Father, you should also be prepared for trouble, for I warn you that it will be only through much tribulation that many will enter the kingdom. But those who have found the kingdom, their joy will be full, and they shall be called the blest of all the earth. But do not entertain false hope; the world will stumble at my words. Even you, my friends, do not fully perceive what I am unfolding to your confused minds. Make no mistake; we go forth to labor for a generation of sign seekers. They will demand wonder-working as the proof that I am sent by

danu napučiti? Može li se narod odjednom roditi? Ali ovako govori Gospod: 'Evo, mir ću na njih kao rijeku svratiti, i kao potok nabujali bogatstvo naroda. Kao što mati tješi sina, tako ću i ja vas utješiti. Bit ćete utješeni čak i u Jeruzalemu. I kad to vidite, srce će vam se radovati.'"

Kad je završio s čitanjem, Isus je vratio smotak njegovom čuvaru. Prije nego što je sjeo, jednostavno je rekao: "Budite strpljivi i vidjet ćete Božju slavu; tako će biti sa svima koji sa mnom ostanu i koji tako nauče vršiti volju moga Oca koji je na nebu." I ljudi su otišli svojim kućama, čudeći se značenju njegovih riječi i djela.

Isus i njegovi apostoli zajedno s Jakovom i Judom, ovoga poslijepodneva su ušli u brod, otplovili niz obalu i bacili sidro dok im je Isus govorio o nastupajućem kraljevstvu. I bili su u stanju razumjeti više nego u četvrtak navečer.

Isus im je savjetovao da se prihvate svojih normalnih dužnosti dok "ne dođe čas kraljevstva." I kako bi ih ohrabrio u ovom smjeru, dao im je vlastiti primjer vraćajući se svojim redovnim dužnostima u brodogradilištu. Isus im je objasnio da su svake večeri trebali provesti tri sata u učenju i pripremi za budući rad, dalje govoreći: "Ovdje ćemo ostati dok me Otac ne pozove. Svi se sada morate vratiti svojim redovnim dužnostima kao da se ništa nije dogodilo. Nikome ne govorite o meni i sjetite se da moje kraljevstvo ne dolazi s bukom i grajom već da mora doći putom velike promjene koju će moj Otac izazvati u vašim srcima i u srcima onih koji će biti pozvani da vam se pridruže u vijećima kraljevstva. Vi ste sada moji prijatelji; vjerujem vam i volim vas; uskoro ćete postati moji osobni suradnici. Budite strpljivi, budite nježni. Uvijek se povinujte Očevoj volji. Budite u pripravnosti odazvati se pozivu kraljevstva. Dok ćete naći veliku radost u službi moga Oca, spremite se za velike teškoće jer vas upozoravam da će mnogi jedino kroz mnoge nevolje ući u kraljevstvo. Ali oni nađu kraljevstvo, njihova će radost biti potpuna i bit će poznati kao blaženstvo cijele zemlje. Ali ne zavodite se lažnim nadama; svijet će se spotaći o moje riječi. Čak ni vi, moji prijatelji, ne možete u cjelosti shvatiti to što predložujem vašim zbunjenim umovima. Ali pazite; radimo među pripadnicima generacije koja traži znak. Oni traže čuda kao dokaz da me

my Father, and they will be slow to recognize in the revelation of my Father's love the credentials of my mission."

That evening, when they had returned to the land, before they went their way, Jesus, standing by the water's edge, prayed: "My Father, I thank you for these little ones who, in spite of their doubts, even now believe. And for their sakes have I set myself apart to do your will. And now may they learn to be one, even as we are one."

7. FOUR MONTHS OF TRAINING

For four long months -- March, April, May, and June -- this tarrying time continued; Jesus held over one hundred long and earnest, though cheerful and joyous, sessions with these six associates and his own brother James. Owing to sickness in his family, Jude seldom was able to attend these classes. James, Jesus' brother, did not lose faith in him, but during these months of delay and inaction Mary nearly despaired of her son. Her faith, raised to such heights at Cana, now sank to new low levels. She could only fall back on her so oft-repeated exclamation: "I cannot understand him. I cannot figure out what it all means." But James's wife did much to bolster Mary's courage.

Throughout these four months these seven believers, one his own brother in the flesh, were getting acquainted with Jesus; they were getting used to the idea of living with this God-man. Though they called him Rabbi, they were learning not to be afraid of him. Jesus possessed that matchless grace of personality which enabled him so to live among them that they were not dismayed by his divinity. They found it really easy to be "friends with God," God incarnate in the likeness of mortal flesh. This time of waiting severely tested the entire group of believers. Nothing, absolutely nothing, miraculous happened. Day by day they went about their ordinary work, while night after night they sat at Jesus' feet. And they were held together by his matchless personality and by the gracious words which he spoke to them evening upon evening.

This period of waiting and teaching was especially hard on Simon Peter. He repeatedly sought to persuade Jesus to launch forth with the preaching of the kingdom in Galilee while John continued to preach in Judea. But Jesus' reply to Peter ever was: "Be patient, Simon. Make progress. We shall be none too ready when the Father calls." And

posao moj Otac i dugo će im trebati da uoče potvrdu moje misije u otkrivenju ljubavi moga Oca."

Ove večeri, kad su se vratili na kopno, prije nego što će se razići, stojeći na rubu obale, Isus se molio: "Moj Oče, hvala ti za ovu malenu djecu koja imaju vjeru unatoč svojim sumnjama. I zbog njih sam došao činiti tvoju volju. I neka nauče biti jedno kao što smo ti i ja jedno."

7. ČETIRI MJESECA OBUKE

Četiri duga mjeseca -- ožujak, travanj, svibanj i lipanj -- su bila period čekanja; Isus je održao preko stotinu dugih i ozbiljnih, premda vedrih i radosnih, predavanja šestorici apostola i svome bratu Jakovu. Radi bolesti u obitelji, Juda je rijetko bio u stanju prisustvovati ovim poukama. Dok Jakov, Isusov brat, nije izgubio vjeru u njega, tijekom ovih mjeseci čekanja i neaktivnosti Marija je došla na ivicu očajanja. Njezina vjera, koja je bila na vrhuncu u Kani, je ovom prilikom opala do dna. Jedino je mogla reći to što je ponovila bezbroj puta: "Ne mogu ga razumjeti. Ne mogu shvatiti što sve ovo znači." Ali Jakova je žena uveliko bila u stanju potaći Marijinu hrabrost.

Ovih je sedam vjernika od kojih je jedan bio Isusov brat po krvi, za vrijeme ova četiri mjeseca, imalo priliku istinski upoznati Isusa; sve više su se navikavali na ideju da su živjeli s ovim Bogom-čovjekom. Zvali su ga Rabi, ali ga se više nisu bojali. Isus je imao to neusporedivo dostojanstvo ličnosti zahvaljujući kojem je mogao živjeti među njima a da im njegova božanstvenost nije smetala. Naučili su da je bilo lako biti "prijatelj s Bogom," Bogom utjelovljenim u obliku smrtnika. Ovo je razdoblje čekanja bilo ozbiljan test cijeloj grupi vjernika. Nije se dogodilo ništa, apsolutno ništa, čudnovato. Iz dana u dan su se bavili svojim svagdašnjim radom, dok su se iz večeri u večer okupljali oko Isusa. Sviju je privlačila ova neusporediva ličnost koja im je iz večeri u večer držala govore pune dostojanstva.

Ovo je razdoblje čekanja i učenja naročito teško palo Šimunu Petru. On je više puta nastojao nagovoriti Isusa da odu propovijedati o kraljevstvu u Galileju dok je Ivan propovijedao u Judeji. Ali Isus je odgovorio Petru: "Budi strpljiv, Šimune. Moraš napredovati. Nitko od nas neće biti potpuno spreman

Andrew would calm Peter now and then with his more seasoned and philosophic counsel. Andrew was tremendously impressed with the human naturalness of Jesus. He never grew weary of contemplating how one who could live so near God could be so friendly and considerate of men.

Throughout this entire period Jesus spoke in the synagogue but twice. By the end of these many weeks of waiting the reports about his baptism and the wine of Cana had begun to quiet down. And Jesus saw to it that no more apparent miracles happened during this time. But even though they lived so quietly at Bethsaida, reports of the strange doings of Jesus had been carried to Herod Antipas, who in turn sent spies to ascertain what he was about. But Herod was more concerned about the preaching of John. He decided not to molest Jesus, whose work continued along so quietly at Capernaum.

In this time of waiting Jesus endeavored to teach his associates what their attitude should be toward the various religious groups and the political parties of Palestine. Jesus' words always were, "We are seeking to win all of them, but we are not of any of them."

The scribes and rabbis, taken together, were called Pharisees. They referred to themselves as the "associates." In many ways they were the progressive group among the Jews, having adopted many teachings not clearly found in the Hebrew scriptures, such as belief in the resurrection of the dead, a doctrine only mentioned by a later prophet, Daniel.

The Sadducees consisted of the priesthood and certain wealthy Jews. They were not such sticklers for the details of law enforcement. The Pharisees and Sadducees were really religious parties, rather than sects.

The Essenes were a true religious sect, originating during the Maccabean revolt, whose requirements were in some respects more exacting than those of the Pharisees. They had adopted many Persian beliefs and practices, lived as a brotherhood in monasteries, refrained from marriage, and had all things in common. They specialized in teachings about angels.

The Zealots were a group of intense Jewish patriots. They advocated that any and all methods were justified in the struggle to escape the bondage of the Roman yoke.

kad nas pozove Otac." Andrija bi povremeno umirio Petra svojim zrelijim filozofskim savjetom. Andriju je jako dojmila Isusova ljudska prirodnost. Uvijek je razmišljao kako je osoba koja je mogla živjeti tako blizu Boga mogla biti tako prijazna i obzirna prema ljudima.

Tijekom cijelog ovog razdoblja Isus je jedino dva puta govorio u sinagogi. Na kraju ovog višetjednog čekanja, počele su se stišavati vijesti o njegovom krštenju i vinu u Kani. Isus se pobrinuo da se ne dogodi ni jedno novo čudo. Ali čak i pored njihovog tihog života u Betsaidi, vijesti o Isusovim čudnima djelima pronijele su se do Heroda Antipe koji je zauzvrat poslao svoje uhode da utvrde Isusove aktivnosti i namjere. Ali Heroda su više brinule Ivanova učenja. Odlučio je ne uznemiravati Isusa koji je tiho nastavio s radom u Kafarnaumu.

Tijekom ovog razdoblja koje je proveo u čekanju, Isus je nastojao upoznati svoje suradnike s ispravnim stavom prema različitim religioznim grupama i političkim partijama koje su postojale u Palestini. Isus je govorio: "Sviju nastojimo pridobiti, a ni jednoj ne pripadamo."

Književnici i rabini su zajedno bili poznati kao farizeji. Nazivali su se "suradnicima." Po mnogo čemu su bili napredniji židovi, kako su usvojili mnoga učenja koja nisu pripadala židovskim pismima, kao na primjer vjerovanje u uskrsnuće mrtvih, doktrinu koju pominje jedino skoriji prorok Daniel.

Seduzeji su se sastojali od sveštenika i određenih bogatijih Židova. Oni nisu bili tako velike pristalice poštovanja zakonskih detalja. Ispravnije je reći da su farizeji i seduceji bili religiozne partije, nego sekte.

Eseni su bili prava religiozna sekta koja se javila u vrijeme makabejske pobune i čiji su zahtjevi na određene načine bili stroži od farizejskih. Usvojili su mnoga perzijska vjerovanja i običaje, živeli kao bratska zajednica u monastirima, poštujući celibat i komunalni posjed imovine. Naročito su razvili teoriju o anđelima.

Revnitelji su bili odana grupa židovskih patriota. Opravdavali su upotrebu svih metoda pri borbi za izručenje židovskog naroda od rimskog jarama.

The Herodians were a purely political party that advocated emancipation from the direct Roman rule by a restoration of the Herodian dynasty.

In the very midst of Palestine there lived the Samaritans, with whom "the Jews had no dealings," notwithstanding that they held many views similar to the Jewish teachings.

All of these parties and sects, including the smaller Nazarite brotherhood, believed in the sometime coming of the Messiah. They all looked for a national deliverer. But Jesus was very positive in making it clear that he and his disciples would not become allied to any of these schools of thought or practice. The Son of Man was to be neither a Nazarite nor an Essene.

While Jesus later directed that the apostles should go forth, as John had, preaching the gospel and instructing believers, he laid emphasis on the proclamation of the "good tidings of the kingdom of heaven." He unfailingly impressed upon his associates that they must "show forth love, compassion, and sympathy." He early taught his followers that the kingdom of heaven was a spiritual experience having to do with the enthronement of God in the hearts of men.

As they thus tarried before embarking on their active public preaching, Jesus and the seven spent two evenings each week at the synagogue in the study of the Hebrew scriptures. In later years after seasons of intense public work, the apostles looked back upon these four months as the most precious and profitable of all their association with the Master. Jesus taught these men all they could assimilate. He did not make the mistake of overteaching them. He did not precipitate confusion by the presentation of truth too far beyond their capacity to comprehend.

8. SERMON ON THE KINGDOM

On Sabbath, June 22, shortly before they went out on their first preaching tour and about ten days after John's imprisonment, Jesus occupied the synagogue pulpit for the second time since bringing his apostles to Capernaum.

A few days before the preaching of this sermon on "The Kingdom," as Jesus was at work in the boatshop, Peter brought him the news of John's arrest. Jesus laid down his tools once more, removed his apron, and said to

Heroditi su bili posve politička partija koja je zagovarala oslobođenje od neposredne rimske vlasti i ponovnu uspostavu herodinske dinastije.

U samom srcu Palestine živjeli su Samaričani s kojima se "Židovi nisu htjeli družiti," unatoč tome što su se mnogi njihovi pogledu slagali sa židovskim učenjima.

Sve ove partije i sekte, uključujući i nešto manje nazarensko bratstvo, su vjerovala u najavljeni dolazak Mesije. Svi su očekivali nacionalnog izručitelja. Ali Isus je vrlo čvrsto tvrdio da se on i njegovi učenici neće priključiti ni jednoj školi učenja ili običaja. Sin Čovječji nije htio biti bilo nazaren ili esen.

Dok je Isus kasnije tražio da apostoli poput Ivana odu propovijedati evanđelje i poučavati vjernike, naglasio je da trebaju navješćivati "radosnu vijest nebeskog kraljevstva." On je uvijek naglašavao da moraju pokazati "ljubav, samilost i naklonost." Rano je učio svoje sljedbenike da je nebesko kraljevstvo bilo duhovno iskustvo vezano uz ustoličenje Boga u ljudskim srcima.

Dok su tako čekali krenu na aktivnu javnu turneju, Isus i sedmorica su provodili dvije večeri svakoga tjedna u sinagogi proučavajući židovske pisma. Za kasnijih godina intenzivnog javnog rada, apostoli su se sjećali ova četiri mjeseca kao najvrijednijeg i najplodotvornijeg dijela svoje suradnje s Učiteljem. Isus je ove ljude naučio svemu što su bili u stanju primiti. On nije učinio grešku tako što im je nastojao prenese suviše znanja. Nije ih natjerao na pometnju upoznavajući ih s istinom koja je bila izvan njihove sposobnosti shvaćanja.

8. PROPOVIJED O KRALJEVSTVU

U subotu 22. lipnja, nedugo prije prije prve turneje i otprilike deset dana nakon što je Ivan bačen u tamnicu, Isus je stao na sinagošku propovijednicu po drugi put nakon što je doveo apostole u Kafarnaum.

Nekoliko dana prije svoje propovijedi o "Kraljevstvu," dok je Isus radio u brodograditeljskoj radionici, Petar mu je donio vijesti o Ivanovu uhićenju. Isus je spustio svoj alat, skinuo pregaču i rekao Petru: "Došao je

Peter: "The Father's hour has come. Let us make ready to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom."

Jesus did his last work at the carpenter bench on this Tuesday, June 18, A.D. Peter rushed out of the shop and by midafternoon had rounded up all of his associates, and leaving them in a grove by the shore, he went in quest of Jesus. But he could not find him, for the Master had gone to a different grove to pray. And they did not see him until late that evening when he returned to Zebedee's house and asked for food. The next day he sent his brother James to ask for the privilege of speaking in the synagogue the coming Sabbath day. And the ruler of the synagogue was much pleased that Jesus was again willing to conduct the service.

Before Jesus preached this memorable sermon on the kingdom of God, the first pretentious effort of his public career, he read from the Scriptures these passages: "You shall be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy people. Yahweh is our judge, Yahweh is our lawgiver, Yahweh is our king; he will save us. Yahweh is my king and my God. He is a great king over all the earth. Loving-kindness is upon Israel in this kingdom. Blessed be the glory of the Lord for he is our King."

When he had finished reading, Jesus said:

"I have come to proclaim the establishment of the Father's kingdom. And this kingdom shall include the worshipping souls of Jew and gentile, rich and poor, free and bond, for my Father is no respecter of persons; his love and his mercy are over all.

"The Father in heaven sends his spirit to indwell the minds of men, and when I shall have finished my work on earth, likewise shall the Spirit of Truth be poured out upon all flesh. And the spirit of my Father and the Spirit of Truth shall establish you in the coming kingdom of spiritual understanding and divine righteousness. My kingdom is not of this world. The Son of Man will not lead forth armies in battle for the establishment of a throne of power or a kingdom of worldly glory. When my kingdom shall have come, you shall know the Son of Man as the Prince of Peace, the revelation of the everlasting Father. The children of this world fight for the establishment and enlargement of the kingdoms of this world, but my disciples shall enter the kingdom of heaven by their moral

Očev čas. Trebamo se spremati za primicanje evanđelja kraljevstva."

Isus je ovog utorka, 18 lipnja 26 godine p.K. posljednji put radio u stolarskoj radionici. Petar je hitro naspustio radnju te je do sredine podneva okupio sve svoje suradnike; ostavio ih je u šumi pored radionice dok je otišao potražiti Isusa. Ali ga nije mogao naći zato što je Učitelj otišao u drugu šumu da se u miru pomoli. I nisu ga vidjeli sve dok kasno uveče nije došao u Zebedejevu kuću u potrazi za hranom. Narednog je dana poslao svog brata Jakova da traži počasnu priliku da održi govor u sinagogi iduće subote. Ravnatelj sinagoge je bio jako zadovoljan što je Isus još jednom bio voljan održati službu.

Prije nego će održati ovu znamenitu propovijed o Božjem kraljevstvu koja je bila prvi značajniji poduhvat njegove javne karijere, Isus je iz Pisama pročitao sljedeće odlomke: "Vi ćete mi biti kraljevstvo svećenika, narod svet. Gospod je sudac naš, Gospod naš zakonodavac, Gospod je kralj naš; on će nas spasti. Gospod je moj kralj i moj Bog. On je veliki kralj nad cijelom zemljom. Nježna ljubav je nad Izraelom u njegovu kraljevstvu. Blažena nek je slava Gospoda našeg jer on je naš Kralj."

Kad je završio s čitanjem, Isus je rekao:

"Došao sam proglasiti uspostavu Očevog kraljevstva. Ovo će kraljevstvo pobuditi pobožne duše Židova i nežidova, bogatih i siromašnih, slobodnjaka i robova, jer moj Otac ne pravi razlike među ljudima; njegova ljubav i milost su nad svima.

"Otac na nebu šalje svoj duh da živi u ljudskim umovima i nakon što završim svoj rad na zemlji Duh Istine će biti izliven na sve ljude. Zajedno, duh moga Oca i Duh Istine će vas uvesti u nastupajuće kraljevstvo duhovnog razumijevanja i božanske ispravnosti. Moje kraljevstvo nije od ovoga svijeta. Sin Čovječji neće voditi vojske u borbu kako bi uspostavio stolicu moći ili kraljevstvo svjetske slave. Kada " dođe moje kraljevstvo, upoznat ćete Sina Čovječjeg kao Kneza Mira, otkrivenje vječnog Oca. Djeca ovog svijeta se bore za uspostavu i uvećanje kraljevstva ovog svijeta, dok će moji učenici ući u nebesko kraljevstvo zahvaljujući svojim moralnim odlukama i svojim duhovnim pobjedama; i nakon što budu ušli u

decisions and by their spirit victories; and when they once enter therein, they shall find joy, righteousness, and eternal life.

"Those who first seek to enter the kingdom, thus beginning to strive for a nobility of character like that of my Father, shall presently possess all else that is needful. But I say to you in all sincerity: Unless you seek entrance into the kingdom with the faith and trusting dependence of a little child, you shall in no wise gain admission.

"Be not deceived by those who come saying here is the kingdom or there is the kingdom, for my Father's kingdom concerns not things visible and material. And this kingdom is even now among you, for where the spirit of God teaches and leads the soul of man, there in reality is the kingdom of heaven. And this kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

"John did indeed baptize you in token of repentance and for the remission of your sins, but when you enter the heavenly kingdom, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

"In my Father's kingdom there shall be neither Jew nor gentile, only those who seek perfection through service, for I declare that he who would be great in my Father's kingdom must first become server of all. If you are willing to serve your fellows, you shall sit down with me in my kingdom, even as, by serving in the similitude of the creature, I shall presently sit down with my Father in his kingdom.

"This new kingdom is like a seed growing in the good soil of a field. It does not attain full fruit quickly. There is an interval of time between the establishment of the kingdom in the soul of man and that hour when the kingdom ripens into the full fruit of everlasting righteousness and eternal salvation.

"And this kingdom which I declare to you is not a reign of power and plenty. The kingdom of heaven is not a matter of meat and drink but rather a life of progressive righteousness and increasing joy in the perfecting service of my Father who is in heaven. For has not the Father said of his children of the world, 'It is my will that they should eventually be perfect, even as I am perfect.'

njega, tu će naći radost, ispravnost i vječni život.

"Oni koji prvo potraže kraljevstvo i koji na taj način počnu težiti plemenitosti karaktera koja obilježava moga Oca, će vremenom primiti sve drugo što im treba. Ali kažem vas s najvećom iskrenošću: Ako ne budete tražili ulazak u kraljevstvo s vjerom i sigurnim pouzdanjem male djece, nećete ga naći.

"Neka vas ne zavaraju oni koji će doći govoreći "Evo ga ovdje" ili "Eno ga ondje," jer se Očevo kraljevstvo ne tiče vidljivih i materijalnih stvari. I ovo je kraljevstvo čak i sada među vama, jer gdje Božji duh uči i vodi ljudske duše, tu je uistinu kraljevstvo božje. I ovo kraljevstvo Božje je ispravnost, mir i užitak u Svetom Duhu.

"Ivan vas je uistinu krstio u znak pokajanja i oprosta grijeha, ali nakon što uđete u kraljevstvo, bit ćete kršteni Svetim Duhom.

U kraljevstvu moga Oca nema više ni Židova ni nežidova, već su tu jedino oni koji teže savršenstvu kroz službu, jer kažem vam da onaj koji hoće biti najveći u kraljevstvu moga Oca prvo mora postati svačiji poslužnik. Ako ste voljni služiti svojim bližnjima, sjedit ćete samnom u mome kraljevstvu upravo kao što ću ja, nakon ove službe u ljudskom obličju, sjediti s mojom Ocem u njegovom.

"Ovo novo kraljevstvo je poput sjemena koje pade u dobru zemlju. Ono ne dostiže odmah svoju punu zrelost. Od utemeljenja kraljevstva u ljudskoj duši do časa kad kraljevstvo dostigne punu zrelost vječne ispravnosti i vječnog spasenja, mora proći određeni period vremena.

"I ovo kraljevstvo o kojem vam govorim nije pitanje moći i obilja. Kraljevstvo nebesko se ne sastoji u jelu i piću, nego u sve većoj pravednosti i radosti sve savršenije službe mome Ocu na nebu. Jer zar nije Otac rekao svojoj zemaljskoj djeci: "Moja je volja da budete savršeni kao što sam ja savršen."

"I have come to preach the glad tidings of the kingdom. I have not come to add to the heavy burdens of those who would enter this kingdom. I proclaim the new and better way, and those who are able to enter the coming kingdom shall enjoy the divine rest. And whatever it shall cost you in the things of the world, no matter what price you may pay to enter the kingdom of heaven, you shall receive manifold more of joy and spiritual progress in this world, and in the age to come eternal life.

"Entrance into the Father's kingdom waits not upon marching armies, upon overturned kingdoms of this world, nor upon the breaking of captive yokes. The kingdom of heaven is at hand, and all who enter therein shall find abundant liberty and joyous salvation.

"This kingdom is an everlasting dominion. Those who enter the kingdom shall ascend to my Father; they will certainly attain the right hand of his glory in Paradise. And all who enter the kingdom of heaven shall become the sons of God, and in the age to come so shall they ascend to the Father. And I have not come to call the would-be righteous but sinners and all who hunger and thirst for the righteousness of divine perfection.

"John came preaching repentance to prepare you for the kingdom; now have I come proclaiming faith, the gift of God, as the price of entrance into the kingdom of heaven. If you would but believe that my Father loves you with an infinite love, then you are in the kingdom of God."

When he had thus spoken, he sat down. All who heard him were astonished at his words. His disciples marveled. But the people were not prepared to receive the good news from the lips of this God-man. About one third who heard him believed the message even though they could not fully comprehend it; about one third prepared in their hearts to reject such a purely spiritual concept of the expected kingdom, while the remaining one third could not grasp his teaching, many truly believing that he "was beside himself."

"Došao sam proglasiti radosnu vijest kraljevstva. Nisam došao olakšati teško breme onih koji hoće ući u kraljevstvo. Ja navješćujem novi i bolji put i one koji uspiju ući u nastupajuće kraljevstvo čeka božanski počinak. Što god vas bude koštalo od stvari ovoga svijeta, koliku god cijenu budete morali platiti kako bi ušli u nebesko kraljevstvo, primit ćete mnogostruko više radosti i duhovnog napretka kako na ovom svijetu tako i u stoljećima vječnog života.

"Ulazak u Očevo kraljevstvo ne čeka na postrojenje vojski, na svrgnuće kraljevstava ovoga svijeta ili na oslobođenje sužnjeva. Bliži se nebesko kraljevstvo i svi koji u njega kroče moraju naći obilje slobode i radosnog spasenja.

"Ovo je kraljevstvo vječna domena. Svi koji uđu u kraljevstvo uspinju se k mome Ocu; oni dolaze s desne strane njegove Rajske slave. I svi koji budu ušli u kraljevstvo nebesko postaće Božji sinovi koji će kroz buduća stoljeća uzaći k Ocu. Ja nisam došao da pozovem tobožnje pravednike, nego grešne i sve koji gladne i žedne za pravednošću božanskog savršenstva.

"Ivan je došao propovijedati pokajanje kao način pripreme za kraljevstvo; ja sam došao proglasiti vjeru -- Božji dar -- kao cijenu koju morate platiti kako bi ste ušli u nebesko kraljevstvo. Ako bi ste samo vjerovali da vas moj Otac voli beskonačnom ljubavlju, već bi bili u Božjem kraljevstvu."

I kad je ovo rekao, sjeo je. I svi koji su ga čuli bili su zaprepašteni njegovim riječima. Njegovi su učenici bili zadivljeni. Ali ljudi nisu bili spremni primiti radosnu vijest s usana ovog Boga-čovjeka. Od prisutnih, jedna trećina je vjerovala ovoj poruci premda je nije bila u stanju posve shvatiti; druga se trećina već u svome srcu spremila odbaciti ovaj posve duhovni koncept očekivanog kraljevstva, dok preostala trećina nije bila u stanju shvatiti njegova učenja, a među njima je bilo i mnogih koji su vjerovali da je Isus bio "izvan pameti."