A photograph of a traditional sailboat with two large triangular sails, navigating through calm, light-colored water. In the background, there are dark, hilly landforms under a cloudy sky.

# The Ministry of Christ

## Narrative and Themes

Christ as Master over Nature

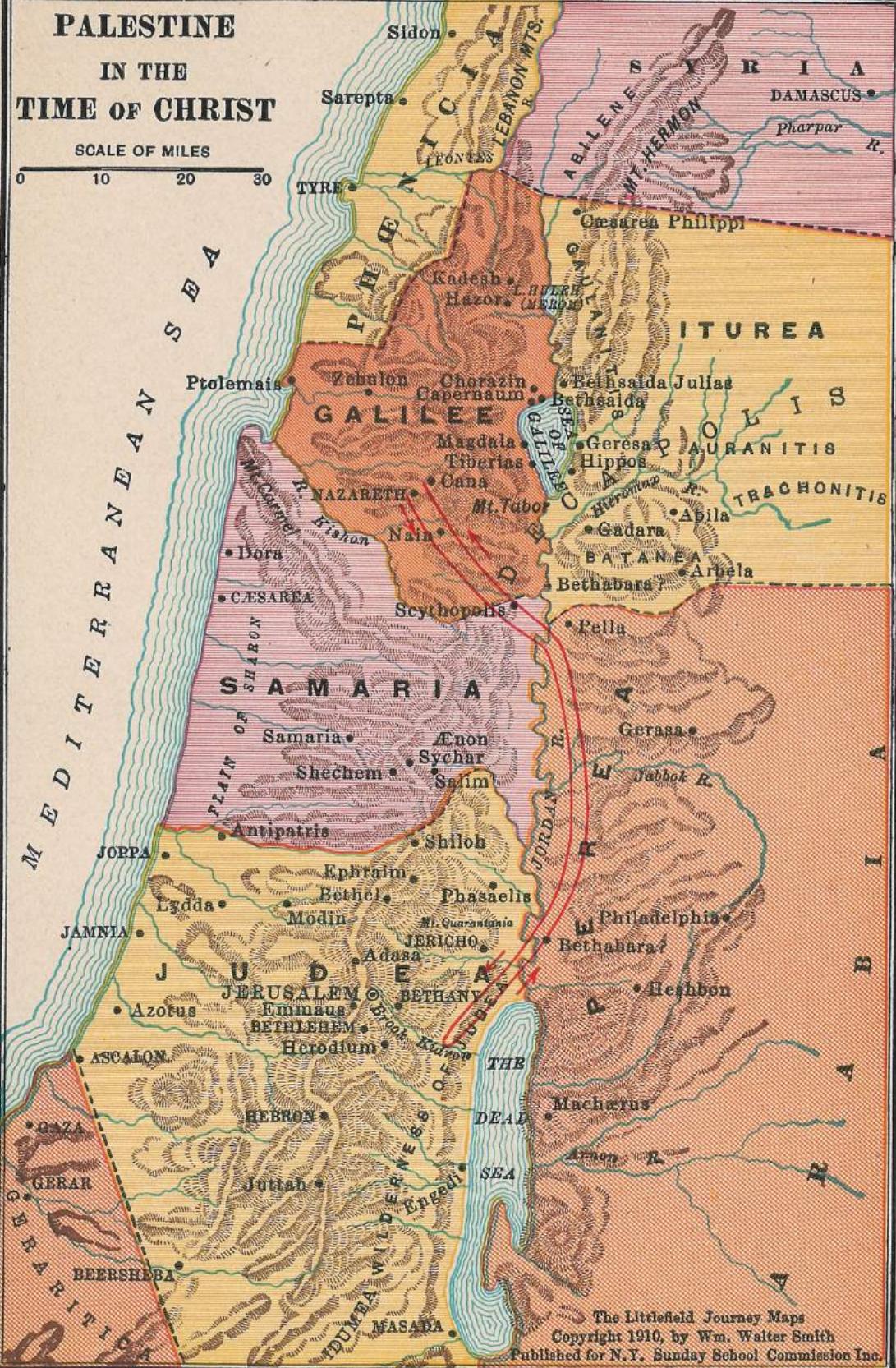
Christ as Master over Illness

Christ as Master over the

Spiritual Realm

Christ as Master over Death

Christ the Great Teacher



No. 2. The Opening Events of Christ's Life.

# The Woman Caught in Adultery

- John 8:1-11
- If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall be put to death.  
— *Leviticus 20:10*
- Where was the man?
- She was condemned under the Law
- Jesus had the power to forgive her outright.
- What was the trap?
- He was trying to change their hearts.
- What was He writing in the dirt?

# The Woman Caught in Adultery

- A great rabbi stands teaching in the marketplace. It so happens that a husband finds proof that morning of his wife's adultery, and a mob carries her to the marketplace to stone her to death. ....The rabbi walks forward and stands beside the woman. Out of respect for him the mob forbears, and waits with the stones heavy in their hands. "Is there anyone here," he says to them, " who has not desired another man's wife, or another woman's husband?"
- They murmur and say, " We all know the desire. But, Rabbi, none of us has acted on it."
- The rabbi says, "Then kneel down and give thanks that God made you strong." He takes the woman by the hand and leads her out of the market. Just before he lets her go, he whispers to her, "Tell the lord magistrate who saved his mistress. Then he'll know that I am his loyal servant."
- So the woman lives, because the community is too corrupt to protect itself from disorder.

# The Woman Caught in Adultery

- Another rabbi, another city. He goes to her, and stops the mob, as in the other story and says, "Which of you is without sin? Let him cast the first stone."
- The people are abashed, and forget their unity of purpose in the memory of their own individual sins. Someday, they think, I may be like this woman, and I'll hope for forgiveness and another chance. I should treat her the way I wish to be treated.
- As they open their hands and let the stones fall to the ground, the rabbi picks up one of the stones, lifts it high over the woman's head, and throws it straight down with all his might. It crushes her skull, and dashes her brains onto the cobblestones.
- "Nor am I without sin," he says to the people. "But if we allow only perfect people to enforce the law, the law will soon be dead, and our city with it."
- So the woman died because her community was too rigid to endure her deviance.

# The Woman Caught in Adultery

- The famous version of this story is noteworthy because it is so startlingly rare in our experience. Most communities lurch between decay and rigor mortis, and when they veer too far, they die. Only one rabbi dared to expect of us such a perfect balance that we could preserve the law and still forgive the deviation.
- So of course, we killed him.
  - Orson Scott Card

# Jesus Heals the Blind Man

- John 9:3
  - 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him."
- Luke 13:1-5
  - There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

# Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People?

We live in a physical world

We sin/We have free will

If God is omnipotent and omnibenevolent why is there suffering?

Omnipotent does not mean incoherent.

All loving does not mean that there is not a bigger picture.

# Jesus Heals a Blind Man

- No non-miracles – cure vs. healing
- Man was born blind
- Choosing Jesus over the synagogue
- Not metaphorical but Jesus uses it to speak metaphorically
- John 9:39-41
  - 39 And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind."
  - 40 Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, "Are we blind also?"
  - 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.

# Luke 10

- ❑ The Seventy Sent Out
- ❑ We should not be surprised at the growth of the church after Pentecost
- ❑ Woe to those cities that reject the message
  - Luke 10:18
    - 18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.
- ❑ Vs. 20 – keep your priorities straight

# Luke 10

- ❑ The Good Samaritan Vs.37
- ❑ Mary and Martha
- ❑ This is very radical – women did not sit at the feet of a Rabbi. They were not allowed to learn.
- ❑ Jesus thought otherwise
- ❑ Martha was concerned about the physical, Mary the spiritual

# Luke 13:10-17

- Jesus again deals with their hardness

# John 10:22-42

- His works bear witness
- V 30 “I and My Father are one.”

# Luke 13

- Jesus mourns over Jerusalem
- Jesus predicts the destruction of Jerusalem