

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Journey to the Feast of Tabernacles

Last time...what it costs to follow Jesus, to be a disciple of Jesus Christ

1. Leave the world behind...everything...including your religion/philosophy!
2. Follow Him unconditionally...absolutely no “But first”s
 - a. No more important relationship than one with Jesus
 - b. No more important business than the Father’s business
 - c. No more important time than right now, not later!

This time...it is time to journey to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles

We will be in John 7 and Luke 9

John 7

For much of the past 18 months in the Lord’s ministry...v1...the Lord’s Galilean ministry

v2 feast of Tabernacles:

In the Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ, we are in the fall,
in the 7th month of the Jewish calendar...Feast of Tabernacles

Lev 23:1-2, 33-36, 39-43

Deut 16:12-17

One of 3 compulsory feasts

It is time to start the journey to Jerusalem, the center of the Jewish world

v3-4 His brethren...thy disciples:

Jesus’ brethren are NOT His disciples...

His disciples are NOT His brethren

John 2:12

Jesus’ brethren (younger) are the children of Joseph and Mary, His half-siblings
(different Father)

Matt 13:53-56

So the worship of the Perpetual Virgin Mary is un-Biblical, extra-Biblical
(Rev 22:18-19), and idolatrous

Jesus' half-siblings tell Him to

“Leave here and go to Judea.

Roman province where Jerusalem is...where Jesus has not been for about 18 months (since John 5)

All the people of all the multitudes that flocked to you will be there and looking for You, to see what wonder You will do there.

There be millions of spectators in Jerusalem!

No man (especially a man claiming to be who You claim to be) does his work

- in private
- in remote regions like Galilee, Caesarea Philippi, Tyre and Sidon, etc

Such a man who seeks such notoriety endeavors/plots to do his work

- publicly
- in Judea
- in Jerusalem

If You do the things we have heard the people of Galilee say You do, go do them in the center of the Jewish world, Jerusalem.

Especially now when the whole nation is there for the Feast of Tabernacles.”

In other words,

“If You really are the Messiah, go prove it and reveal Yourself to the entire nation in the city God chose for Himself.”

v5 neither did His brethren believe:

Matt 13:57 *A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.*

Therefore, what was the heart-set and the tone of voice of the children of Joseph and Mary toward their Big half-Brother?

- mocking
- sarcastic and snide
- challenging

Mark 3:21 when his friends (or “kinsmen”) heard *of it*, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself (“insane”)

Remember last week and Rebekah's family's "participation" in the decision to follow the Lord?

- hindering
- getting in the way
- getting in between
- delay

If you are mocked or challenged by your unbelieving family,
Jesus knows...knows more so

We also get a sense of the loneliness of Jesus in His ministry to speak the words and do the work of His Father:

- His disciples did not understand
- His half-siblings did not believe
- The Jews demanded signs, did not believe
- The Pharisees sought to kill Him

In the work of your ministry, can you relate to the loneliness of Jesus?
He knows...He knows more so
He will comfort you with the comfort He got from His Father

v6-8 Jesus said to them:

Jesus did not get angry or frustrated, He replies calmly to the biting sarcasm

"My time is not yet come, is not now.

The Father's perfect timing, never early and never late, is not now.

The Father is always in control, mortal men are not ever

Your time is always ready.

You can go to the feast any time you want.

The world's time is...now, an impatient, self-gratifying Now!

The world cannot hate you.

Jesus' use of "world" is different than their "world" in v4...
devil's dominion vs Jerusalem

The world does not hate/detest its own...His siblings are of the world

But it hates Me

I am not of the world, I am from above.

because I testify/witness/bear record against the world: its deeds are evil."

Therefore, in context of what it costs to follow Jesus, leaving the world
(everything, including your religion) is rational and worth it

You go up to the feast
Up in elevation from all direction to Jerusalem
We always ascend to worship the Lord

I go not up yet
Jesus tarried
Jesus always waited patiently and calmly for the Father's perfect timing

My time is not yet full come."
His ministry is not over, He still has work to do

- in Jerusalem
- in Perea (west side of Jordan River and Dead Sea)
- in Jerusalem

v9-10 abode in Galilee...also went up...in secret:
Off Jesus' half-siblings go to Jerusalem, along with all the other pilgrims in
Galilee [map]

1. East over the Jordan River
2. South thru Iturea, Decapolis, and Perea
3. West over the Jordan River to Jericho
4. Up to Jerusalem

Jesus stayed behind in Galilee...until the children of Joseph and Mary had begun
their journey

Then Jesus, with the 12, started their journey to Jerusalem for the Feast of
Tabernacles (Matt 5:17)

He has an appointment there! (John 7:14 *ff*)

But they did not go the route of the Jews...avoiding Samaria
He went, as it were, in secret – securely and quietly, not in plain sight,
concealed from the other pilgrims – by going thru Samaria

The journey is recorded in Luke 9

Luke 9

v51 He should be received up...go to Jerusalem:

When it was the Father's time for Him to "ascend up" to Jerusalem...
vs His own or His half-siblings' time...

Jesus resolutely set out to go to

- the Feast of Tabernacles
- the center of
 - the Jewish world
 - murderous hostility toward Him

We have reached another milestone in the Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ:

Jesus is leaving the Galilee and will not be back...until after Resurrection
His Galilean Ministry is complete

v52-53 sent messengers:

Jesus sent 2 messengers to go before Him to find/prepare a place to stay
at what would most likely be a cold night (fall)

This advance team would be 2 of the 12 disciples

The 2 disciples enter a village of the Samaritans and...are rebuffed, not welcomed

This is clearly not the same village as the home of the woman by the well,
which all believed on Jesus (John 4:41-42)

Why was Jesus not welcomed by these Samaritans?

He had the countenance/demeanor of getting to Jerusalem...

"If you, a Jewish Rabbi, are just passing thru, just keep on walking!"

"If we Samaritans, dogs and mongrel half-breeds to you uppity Jews,
are not good enough for you, leave us and go somewhere else!"

Truly, v58

So, who is bigoted/racist (racism is a manifestation of fear)?

Jews toward Samaritans? Yes

Samaritans toward Jews? Yes

All men toward those who are different than them? Yes

(e.g. Charlottesville VA yesterday)

Luke 21:10

Who is not bigoted/racist?

Jesus Christ

Those who are Christ-like (2 Tim 1:7)

Why do we have race relations problems in our nation?
Jesus is not Lord of our nation

v54 James and John...we command fire down from heaven:
Can we logically think that James and John, the Sons of Thunder (Mark 3:17)
were the 2 messengers, Jesus' advance team?
Methinks so

How did the Sons of Thunder react to the inhospitality and rudeness shown to
their Master Jesus?
They were furious!
They wanted Jesus to just give them the go-ahead to call down fire from heaven
to consume/destroy this entire village and all its inhabitants...
kinda like Elijah did in his ministry (whom they recently saw and heard on
Mount Hermon)

The Sons of Thunder are...way out of line, un-Christ-like

v55-56 He turned and rebuked...know not what manner of spirit...not come to destroy:
Jesus stopped in His tracks, turned to face James and John, and rebuked them.
Obviously, His lesson to them in v49-50 about self-centered jealous zeal did not
fall on good soil

He tells them, essentially, that they have a spirit more like the prince of this world
the destroyer, thief, liar, murderer...
than the Spirit of His Father in heaven...
merciful, gracious, kind, slow to anger, longsuffering, Giver of life

They must learn to be not like the world but like Christ (Matt 16:24)...
Who came to earth not to destroy men but to save them from destruction
John 3:16-17

Jesus is not angry, He just moves on
True of our witness to the world as well
Self-lessly share God's love and grace...1 Cor 2:2
If the invitation to receive the gift of eternal life...
for Jesus to dwell in them...is rejected

- do not get angry and condemning like a Son of Thunder...
way out of line and un-Christ-like,
for judgment is not given to us
- move on like Jesus did

btw...in the TR/KJV/Geneva Bible but not in NIV or ESV:

Luke 9:54 "even as Elias did?"

Luke 9:55 "and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of."

Luke 9:56 "For the Son of Man is not come to destroy men's lives but to save them."

Application

To recap, there are 6 Take-aways for us in this passage:

1. Don't worship Mary as the Perpetual Virgin; will be guilty of adding to the Word of God
2. Don't expect unbelieving family and friends to rejoice as you follow Jesus,
but calmly respond to their biting sarcasm, as you faithfully follow Jesus
3. If you are lonely in your ministry, Jesus knows/understand and He will never leave nor forsake you
4. Rest in the Father's perfect timing, waiting patiently for it
5. The cost of following Jesus Christ is worth it!
6. Don't be like the children of the world
(hateful, fearful, racist, condemning, judgmental),
Be who you are – children of God
(Love, gracious, merciful, kind, slow to anger, longsuffering, gentle,
speaking unchanging and absolute Truth)

We are the light of the world.

Let our light shine before men...

be a bold witness...

that they may see your good works...

thinking, speaking, acting differently than the world...

and glorify your Father which is in heaven

Witness of Jesus Christ and against the world...

expecting to be hated by the world but blessed by God