



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

## **New Testament Survey**

### **Lesson 10 – Jesus in Judea and Perea**

#### **Perea**

Perea and Galilee were ruled at this time by Herod Antipas, whom Jesus called a fox. Jesus spent much of His time during the last period of His life in Perea, from the Feast of Booths in October to the Passover in April. He taught in the form of parables or sermons. Some of His teaching is almost the same as what He had said earlier in Galilee.

Read the listed passages as you study each of the events below:

#### ***Sorrow ahead*** (Luke 12:49-53)

Would there be peace on earth through Jesus? Not at all! Rather, there will be divisions in the family because of Him. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, but His peace is not of this world. He establishes peace between God and man and offers this peace in His Word of forgiveness.

#### ***Signs of the times*** (Luke 12:54-59)

Jesus repeats things He had said before in His Sermon on the Mount, and in Magdala, but doesn't a good teacher say the same good things many times?

#### ***Repent*** (Luke 13:1-5)

Jesus discusses two catastrophes that had just occurred: Pilate's slaughter of some Galileans and the fall of the tower of Siloam. Do such terrible things happen to people because of some particular sin they had committed? No! We all deserve the worst from God. Let us therefore repent of our sins and trust in God's grace in Jesus.

#### ***Another year*** (Luke 13:6-9)

The Lord is very patient, but the time for repentance finally runs out. The Lord was patient with the Jews, but when they continued to resist Christ and His apostles, judgment finally struck them in 70 AD.

#### ***Sick for eighteen years*** (Luke 13:10-17)

Jesus healed a crippled woman on the Sabbath. The ruler of the synagogue wanted to forbid people from coming to get healed on the Sabbath. Jesus rebuked the hypocrisy of His enemies, and they were put to shame.

#### ***"I and the Father are One"*** (Matthew 19:1-2; Mark 10:1; John 10:22-42)

Jesus spoke on Solomon's Porch in the temple at the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) in December. It was on this occasion that Jesus quoted a verse from the Bible (Psalm 82:6) and said: **"The Scriptures cannot be broken."** He also said many wonderful words about His sheep who hear His voice and to whom He will give eternal life.

***The narrow door*** (Luke 13:22-30)

We should not ask questions out of curiosity, such as: How many are going to be saved? Rather, we should make sure that we ourselves are entering by the narrow gate, not the wide gate that leads to destruction. Many people deceive themselves; they think they are Christians, but they are not. Just being acquainted with Christ and knowing His name is not enough.

***Jesus warns Jerusalem*** (Luke 13:31-35)

Herod Antipas wanted to kill Jesus, but Jesus knew that Herod would not kill Him. Jesus knew He would die in Jerusalem, where many of the prophets were killed.

That Jerusalem rejected Jesus was not His fault. **"The Lord is ... not willing that any should perish"** (2 Peter 3:9). Jesus wanted to save the people of Jerusalem, but they refused.

***Dinner is ready!*** (Luke 14:1-24)

Jesus healed a sick man on the Sabbath in the home of a Pharisee. At this same time Jesus talked about the way the guests chose the best seats for themselves. Instead of choosing the best for ourselves, we should be humble and take the lowest seat. Jesus also said that we should not invite others to a meal only for the purpose of having them invite us to their homes in return. Rather, we should invite those who cannot invite us back, the poor and the needy.

Jesus then told a parable about a man who gave a great dinner. Many were invited, but everyone presented excuses. As a result, there was still room, and so the servants went out into the streets, the highways, and the hedges to invite others. The dinner was ready.

***Leave everything*** (Luke 14:25-35)

Jesus again talks about the cross of Christians (v. 27) as He had at an earlier time<sup>1</sup>. Jesus' disciples must bear their cross, and they must hate everything for His sake, putting Him first. Following Christ must be more important than family, self, sufferings, possessions.

But Jesus' disciples should also first count the cost before following Him, even as a man building a tower, or a king going to war.

***Lost – a sheep*** (Luke 15:1-7)

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<sup>1</sup> See ***Take Up Your Cross*** (Matthew 16:24-28; Mark 8:34-9:1; Luke 9:23-27) in lesson 8

Jesus received sinners and ate with them. The Pharisees criticized Him for this, not realizing that they were just as sinful as the sinners Jesus received. In this connection Jesus told three parables about looking for the lost and being happy when the lost is found.

Out of 100 sheep, one was lost. Go, look for that one, and be happy when you find him. Christians are to seek the lost, just as Jesus did, and we should rejoice with the angels in heaven when one sinner repents.

***Lost – a coin*** (Luke 15:8-10)

In this parable one piece of silver was lost and found again. Rejoice!

***Lost – a son*** (Luke 15:11-32)

This is perhaps the most famous of all Jesus' parables. It is the Gospel in a nutshell. There are two selfish sons in this parable. One was self-indulgent and squandered all his money on his pleasures, but later he repented. The other son stayed at home and was self-righteous. He did not rejoice when the lost was found. Did he repent later on? The parable does not tell us.

This parable gives us a good example of confession and absolution. As the father treated his lost son that was found, so God treats us when we confess our sins: He clothes us in Christ's righteousness and feeds us with eternal life.

***The dishonest manager*** (Luke 16:1-17)

This man was wise in material things. If only we were as wise in eternal things as he was in material things!

Notice how important it is that we be faithful in little things.

Jesus repeats a former teaching: You cannot serve God and money.<sup>2</sup>

***Husband and wife*** (Matthew 19:3-12; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18)

Jesus repeats what He had said in His Sermon on the Mount: divorce is not God-pleasing<sup>3</sup>.

Jesus says it is normal for most people to marry, but there are exceptions.

***The rich man and Lazarus*** (Luke 16:19-31)

Not all rich men are lost, and not all poor men are saved. This rich man was lost because he despised Moses and the Prophets, that is, the Word of God. Notice how Jesus exalts

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<sup>2</sup> See ***The Sermon on the Mount: True Treasures*** (Matthew 6:19-24; Luke 11:34-36) in Lesson 5.

<sup>3</sup> See ***The Sermon on the Mount: Adultery*** (Matthew 5:27-32) in Lesson 5.

the power of God's Word: it has the power to conversion; it is more powerful even than the resurrection of a dead man.

In this same parable Jesus also teaches that there is a wide chasm between heaven and hell.

***Faith and duty*** (Luke 17:5-10)

Notice what Jesus says: Even if we were able to do every single thing that God has commanded us to do, we would deserve no special treatment from Him; we would only have done our duty. Since we fall far short of even doing our duty, what do we deserve? Nothing but eternal punishment! So how can we be saved? Not by doing our duty and then being rewarded for it, but only by trusting in God's mercy in Christ.

Our Lutheran fathers confessed in the Augsburg Confession of 1530: *"Faith should produce good works and we must do all such good works as God has commanded, but we should do them for God's sake and not place our trust in them as if thereby to merit favor before God. For we receive forgiveness of sin and righteousness only through faith in Christ... It is taught among us that good works should and must be done, not that we are to rely on them to earn grace but that we may do God's will and glorify Him. It is always faith alone that apprehends grace and forgiveness of sin."* (The Book of Concord, Kolb-Wengert Edition, Article VI: New Obedience, Article XX: Good Works).

**Questions**

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1. Which one of the four Gospels provides the most information on Jesus' travels in Perea?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said was bringing a sword into the world?
3. What is God's purpose in allowing tragedies to occur in the world?
4. What was Jesus' response to those who accused Him of breaking the Sabbath?
5. What comforting promise did Jesus give to those who listen to His voice?
6. Why was Jesus so troubled when He thought about Jerusalem?
7. What is the meaning of the parable about the great dinner?
8. What was the difference between the two sons in Jesus' parable?
9. How does Jesus' story of the rich man & Lazarus explain the power and efficacy of God's Word?
10. Why should believers in Jesus do good works?