



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

New Testament Survey

Lesson 9 – Jesus in Judea

From October to December (29 AD)

When Jesus was in Caesarea Philippi with His disciples, He told them of His coming suffering and death. From that time on, Jesus' thoughts turned towards Jerusalem, where His death would take place. He was in Jerusalem for three festivals (feasts) before His death: The Feast of Booths (or Tabernacles) in October, the Feast of Lights/Dedication (Hanukkah) in December, and the Feast of Passover in the spring when He offered up His life. Between these visits He spent some time in Judea and Perea and perhaps a little time in Galilee.

The Feast of Booths commemorated the wilderness wanderings of the children of Israel on their way to the Promised Land in the days of Moses. At this festival many Jews from other lands came. They stayed in tents that they set up all around Jerusalem.

The Feast of Lights/Dedication (Hanukkah) was the Day of Independence for the Jews. It was celebrated in honor of the Jewish patriot, Judas Maccabaeus, who led the Jews to independence in the war against the Seleucid rulers (167-165 BC). At that time the temple in Jerusalem was rededicated to the Lord after being in the hands of the heathen.

During this period Jesus had many arguments with the Jewish leaders. Many of the common people were undecided and did not know what to believe about Jesus. They were having arguments among themselves as to who and what Jesus was.

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

To Jerusalem! (Matthew 19:1; Mark 10:1; Luke 9:51-56; John 7:2-10)

Jesus' unbelieving brothers (James, Jude, Joses, and Simon) wanted Him to show Himself to the people in Jerusalem in order to gain a larger following for Himself, but Jesus did not go with them to the Feast of Booths. He went to Jerusalem later, more privately.

In Samaria Jesus rebuked James and John for wanting to curse the people who did not welcome Jesus.

I will follow, but (Matthew 8:19-22; Luke 9:57-62)

Jesus talks frankly to three would-be followers:

The over-eager one – Jesus tells him what following Him will mean.

The one who wanted to bury his father – **“Let the dead bury their dead”** (Matthew 8:22; Luke 9:60).

The one who wanted to say good-bye first – Looking back is not fitting for a disciple of Jesus.

At the Festival of Booths (Matthew 19:1; Mark 10:1; John 7:11-52)

The crowds in Jerusalem were looking for Jesus when suddenly He appeared. Jesus said that His teaching is God's teaching. He asked why they wanted to kill Him? The Pharisees wanted to arrest Jesus, but the officers sent to arrest Him were impressed by His teaching; they said no one ever spoke like Him. On the last day of the Feast Jesus invited thirsty souls to come to Him for spiritual drink. Almost all the Jewish leaders rebuked Jesus, but Nicodemus defended Him.

The adulteress – forgiveness of sin but no condoning of sin (John 7:53 – 8:11)

Jesus argues with the Jews (John 8:12-59)

Jesus: I am the Light of the world.

The Jews: Who says so?

Jesus: There are two witnesses, the Father and I.

The Jews: Where is Your Father?

Jesus: You don't know Me or My Father.

Jesus: I'm going away. You will die in your sins because you do not believe in Me.

The Jews: Who are you?

Jesus: When you have lifted Me up, you will know who I am.

Jesus: If you continue in My Word, you shall be free.

The Jews: We are free now.

Jesus: You are slaves of sin.

The Jews: We are Abraham's children.

Jesus: If you were Abraham's children, you would do as he did.

The Jews: God is our Father.

Jesus: If God were your father, you would love Me. Your father is the devil.

The Jews: You are crazy.

Jesus: No, I honor the Father. If a man keeps My saying, he shall not see death.

The Jews: Didn't Abraham die? Are You greater than Abraham?

Jesus: Abraham saw My day and was glad.

The Jews: You aren't fifty years old yet. When did You see Abraham?

Jesus: Before Abraham was, I am.

Then they all started throwing stones at Him.

A blind man sees (John 9:1-41)

Jesus gave sight to a man born blind. Then this is what happened:

Neighbors: How did it happen that you see?

The man born blind: Jesus did it.

The Pharisees: How did it happen that you see?

The man born blind: Jesus did it.

The Pharisees: This man is a sinner. He heals on the Sabbath. Who do you think He is?

The man born blind: He is a prophet.

The Pharisees: Was your son born blind? How is it that he can see?

Parents: Our son was born blind. Now he can see. We don't know how. Ask him.

(The parents said this because they were afraid of being excommunicated.)

The Pharisees: God healed you. Jesus is a sinner.

The man born blind: I don't know about that. I know this. I was blind. Now I see.

The Pharisees: How did He do it?

The man born blind: I told you before. Do you want to become His disciples?

The Pharisees: You are His disciple. We are Moses' disciples. We don't know about Jesus.

The man born blind: That's strange. He healed me, and you don't know He is of God.

The Pharisees: You were born in sins, and you want to teach us? You are excommunicated.

Jesus: Do you believe in the Son of God?

The man born blind: Who is He?

Jesus: I am He.

The man born blind: I believe.

Jesus: I make the blind see and I make those who see blind.

The Pharisees: Are we blind?

Jesus: If you were blind, I could make you see. Since you claim to see, I can't help you.

The Good Shepherd (John 10:1-21)

Jesus says: I am the Door of the sheep. I am the Good Shepherd who gives His life for the sheep.

Jesus says: Of My own free will I give My life, and of My own free will I take it again.

Both His death and resurrection were voluntary.

Seventy missionaries (Matthew 11:20-30; Luke 10:1-24)

Jesus again sends His disciples out two by two. His instructions for them are similar to His earlier instructions for the twelve. They return happy in success. Jesus says: **“Rejoice because your names are written in heaven”** (Luke 10:6).

Jesus rebukes Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum for their lack of repentance. Jesus invites all to find spiritual rest in Him and His teachings.

The good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

Jesus’ parable was intended to show the lawyer that God’s standard is higher than the lawyer thought.

Mary listens to Jesus (Luke 10:38-42)

It is more important to be served by Jesus than to serve Him. The Word of God is the one thing needed.

The Lord’s Prayer (Luke 11:1-4)

This is the second time that Jesus taught this prayer to His disciples.

Warnings (Luke 11:37-54)

Since most of the Pharisees, scribes, and lawyers rejected Jesus and His teaching, Jesus pronounced severe woes on them to make them aware of their sins.

Don’t be afraid of men (Luke 12:1-12)

Don’t fear those who kill the body, but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. This does not refer to Satan, but to God himself.

Don’t be greedy (Luke 12:13-34)

Jesus refused to settle a civil case brought to Him having to do with property rights. He did take the opportunity, however, to warn against the sin of greed. In this connection He told the parable of the foolish man who built new barns and Jesus repeated many of the teachings He had presented in His Sermon the Mount.

It is important that we make use of our present time of grace, for we never know how long a time we will have to repent of our sins and put our trust in Christ.

Questions

1. Give a brief description of the three festivals mentioned in this section of the New Testament.
2. What did Jesus' brothers think of their brother Jesus and His mission?
3. Why did the officers sent to arrest Jesus not arrest Him?
4. How did Jesus prove that the Jews who argued with Him were not true children of Abraham?
5. How did Jesus prove that the Jews who argued with Him were not really children of God?
6. What did Jesus mean when He said: "Before Abraham was, I am"?
7. How did the man born blind confess Christ after he was healed?
8. In what two ways did the man born blind receive sight?
9. What can we learn about mission work today from Jesus' instructions to the seventy?
10. Why can the Law of God not save any of us?
11. Why do those facing death because of Christ not have to be afraid?
12. In what way was the man who built new barns in Jesus' parable foolish?