



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Jerusalem, down the road

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities sharing scripture, teaching, forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, and raising the dead. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly preached the Kingdom of God. Jesus is nearly half way through His 3 year ministry when He sends His select 12 common men to heal and preach. Jesus impact became known to the common and to the royalty. He wants to withdraw to a city, yet Jerusalem is down the road and His mission continues to drive Him to cure, heal and most importantly preach the kingdom of God.

“When the apostles returned, they gave an account to Him of all that they had done. Taking them with Him, He withdrew by Himself to a city called Bethsaida. But the crowds were aware of this and followed Him; and welcoming them, He began speaking to them about the kingdom of God and curing those who had need of healing.” (Luke 9:10-11 NASB)

The 12 apostles reported back to Jesus. Jesus chose 12 common men to assist in His ministry and gave them power, the ability to do things, and authority, the right to do things. He gave them power and authority over all demons and “... to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.” (Mt10:1) They returned to Jesus and reported all that they had done. They went out and preached that men should repent, they cast out demons and they healed people through the power and authority of Jesus. They also reported to Jesus of the beheading of John the Baptist.

Jesus withdrew to Bethsaida. Jesus learning of the murder of John the Baptist (Mt 14: 13-14) and desiring rest, he went to be in a secluded place a few miles east of Capernaum in the city of Bethsaida, the hometown of four of Jesus' apostles. The crowds followed Him and rather than rest, He did what was best for them.

Jesus continued to preach and heal. Luke describes that Jesus welcomed the crowds. Jesus was likely very tired, yet He healed those in need and preached the kingdom of God. Jesus served and did what was best for the people rather than what might have provided rest and comfort to himself. Later that day He would perform a miracle that would feed 5000 men. Jesus also knew His road was leading to Jerusalem and the Cross and that He would perform the ultimate healing of eternal life through His sacrifice for those that follow Him and call Him Lord and Savior.

Jerusalem is down the road. Less than 100 miles south of Bethsaida is Jerusalem. Luke will record later in his writings that:

“When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.” (Luke 19:41- 42)

For Your Consideration:

- When you are tired and weary, are you willing to serve Him and others for the sake of the kingdom of God for them?
- Are you thankful that God does not take a rest from you?
- Are you ready for your Jerusalem?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44