



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Loving Enemies

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Tom McCullough / PO Box 503, Granville, OH. 43023/ tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org / www.capitolcom.org.

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 over 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. God has provided a rare glimpse of the kingdom of God through Jesus transfiguration on the mountain to a select three apostles. Jesus now sets his sights toward Jerusalem.

“When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem; and He sent messengers on ahead of Him, and they went and entered a village of the Samaritans to make arrangements for Him. But they did not receive Him, because He was traveling toward Jerusalem. When His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” But He turned and rebuked them, [and said, “You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.”] And they went on to another village.” (Luke 9: 51-56 NASB, Mt 19:1; Jn 7:10)

Approaching ascension. The approaching ascension that is sited is the event that will take place after Jesus is handed over, killed, buried, and in three day resurrected ... and subsequently His ascension to be with God the Father.

Luke records that the ‘days were approaching’, where Jesus willingly will give His life to pay the price for the sins of the world. He was resolute in His destination and will of the Father.

Jerusalem a byway to ascension. Jesus was headed for Jerusalem and Galilee would no longer be His base of operations. Traveling through Samaria was in a direct line to Jerusalem. While most Jews would travel around Samaria rather than through it, Jesus was on a direct path to Jerusalem. He sends followers ahead to prepare a place stay.

The bad Samaritans. The Samaritans and the Jews did not get along. They had been feuding for centuries. They were enemies. Jesus and His followers were rejected by the Samaritans. Jesus and His followers were rejected because they were headed toward Jerusalem, the center of Jewish religion and worship. James and John wanted to punish the Samaritans but Jesus rebuked and rejected this notion. Jesus was merciful to the Samaritans that rejected Him.

The merciful Jesus. Jesus loved those that did not love Him. He said that He came to save and not to destroy (Jn 3:16-17). Jesus loved and gave mercy to those that hated Him. To the Jews, Samaritans and Gentiles, Jesus came to save and not to destroy.

For Your Consideration:

- Are you willing to travel directly through Samaria's in your life or do you go around them?
- When rejected by your Samaria's, do you have the temptation to retaliate or punish them?
- Are you merciful to them?

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