



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Jesus' Popularity and Power

JULY 10, 2013

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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. Capernaum became Jesus' unofficial ministry headquarters. As was His custom, Jesus was in the synagogue on the Sabbath, reading scripture and teaching. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities forgiving sin and physically healing people of demons and disease. Jesus began to challenge rituals and shared the Kingdom of God. On this occasion, Luke continues to share the life, person and power of Christ Jesus.

“Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place; and there was a large crowd of His disciples, and a great throng of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured. And all the people were trying to touch Him, for power was coming from Him and healing them all.”(Luke 6:17-19 NASB)

Jesus' popularity. Luke continues to describe Jesus popularity with the growing number of people in the region who are becoming witnesses to the truth of Jesus' nature. Luke shares that after selecting His apostles, Jesus came down from the mountain with the apostles to a large gathering of His followers, disciples, and many others who had heard of Jesus'. Many of the others who had gathered to witness Jesus' teaching and actions were from various parts of Judea and Jerusalem. All of Judea is likely referring to the land including Judea and Galilee. The Judea region had a large population of Jews, deriving the name from the tribe of Judah.

Luke records they came from all of Judea and Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the political center for that region. Luke also records that people came from Tyre and Sidon; both of these regions were beyond the Judea region and located 30-40 miles northwest of Capernaum, near the likely location of this passage. Both the Jews and the gentiles had come to hear Jesus teach and were hopeful that He would heal them physically and at times spiritually.

Jesus' power. Luke records that all of the people listened to Jesus and wanted to touch Jesus because they witnessed power flowing from Him that would heal them. Jesus was healing Jews and gentiles. In describing this healing, Luke was providing additional support and documentation that Jesus had not come just for the Jews but rather for all men and nations, Jews and gentiles. Luke's record of these continued teachings and healings by Jesus reflect that not just a small numbers were healed but rather thousands were healed by Jesus. Those being healed did not have to do anything. Jesus did it all, completely and immediately. Thousand witnessed the truth of Jesus but not all believed in Him.

For Your Consideration:

- Who is Jesus to you?
- Would you have traveled and sought Jesus out?
- If you had witnessed Jesus' teachings and healings, like thousands did, would you have become a follower or one who forgets and rejects Jesus?

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