

Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

G . The Second Tour of Galilee

1. Jesus Begins the Second Tour of Galilee

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #087

Base Text: LK 8.1-3 (Parallel Text: None)

¹ After this, Jesus was next traveling through all of the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.

The Twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had gone out; ³ Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *the words of Jesus are italicized in red*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Galilee
Timeline	May to October, 31 AD (Months Sixteen to Twenty One)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IV: The Great Galilean Ministry
	G. The 2 nd Tour of Galilee
Title	I. Jesus Departs On His Second Tour With the Twelve and Others

COMMENT:

Jesus began his second major tour of Galilee in the early summer of his second year of ministry--probably in May, the sixteenth month. Love drove Jesus out onto the roads and paths connecting the roughly twenty five towns and villages in Galilee. Upper Galilee--north of the Lake, was a region of mountainous terrain and few towns. Lower Galilee--the area to the East and Southeast of the lake was more accessible with its hills and valleys. Moving systematically from town to town was highly unusual in Jesus' day, when there was little movement and direct contact between the towns and villages. The Lord was on a mission with his precious gospel of the kingdom and he would not be deterred from delivering it personally to every person.

The Second Tour was a season of major transition in Jesus's ministry. We can think of it as a bridge connecting two different seasons of response to him. Since arriving in Galilee roughly nine months earlier, Jesus had taken the area by storm with his preaching, healing, and teaching gifts. Over his 1st Tour the people had welcomed him with great notoriety and acclaim, and his popularity had peaked. The "before" side of the 2nd Tour-bridge was therefore positive and popular.

The Pharisees, however, had been jealous of his success. When Jesus healed on the Sabbath in Jerusalem at Passover, and then followed with two more consecutive Sabbaths of "violations" of their man-made traditions, the jealous turned into hatred, and the private consensus among the Pharisees and other Jewish leadership was that he must die. During the 2nd Tour this privately held enmity quickly emerged into public opposition and ridicule of Jesus. The leaders began to call him a demon possessed man, who ministered by the power of the devil--a Satanist!

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There were many different opinions about Jesus' identity swirling about in those days, and ours, but accusing him of being demon-possessed was the lowest of the low things that could be said about him. So, the "after" side of the 2nd Tour-Bridge was a place of growing opposition and resistance against him. Jesus returned to Capernaum at the end of the 2nd Tour in a different set of ministry circumstances.

This kind of fierce hatred of Jesus and his message led him to introduce parables for public speaking on the 2nd Tour. Many people have the impression that Jesus used parables throughout his ministry, but the truth is that he began to use them from this specific point forward, because the adamant rejection of him by the leaders made it necessary. They would no longer listen to straight talk from him, so he had to couch his message in stories that forced them to think about what he was telling them in an indirect manner.

Jesus explained the meaning of the parables privately to his disciples. They got the message directly from Jesus, which they preferred over parables. So the 2nd Tour marked an important transition in Jesus' public speaking style and methodology.

During the 2nd Tour Jesus also adjusted his ministry focus. He now made a priority of using the time to train his twelve apostles and the other disciples he would later send out to witness. He was modeling how to teach and preach the good news through his personal example. After roughly nine months of focusing on the masses in Galilee, he was now turning to the primary necessity of training and equipping his disciples to follow him as "fishers of people," so they could continue his mission to "make disciples of all the nations" after his death, resurrection, and ascension back to heaven.

Along this line we should note that Jesus included many women in his traveling band of full-time disciples. Luke mentions three of them by name, but there were also **"many others."** These women ministered to the physical needs of the entire group out of their own means, while they also received training from Jesus and participated in the full fellowship of the mobile "church" that was constantly gathered around Jesus. It was no small logistical task to lead, feed, and find places to sleep a group of around thirty people outside, every day for six months. The women were invaluable in their ministry of serving Jesus and the rest of the group by giving of their means and labor.

God is no respecter of persons--all are equally loved by the Trinity, so Jesus demonstrated this in his radical kind of mobile, itinerant fellowship that extended to all people. The "church on the move" would pray, worship, and receive many hours of private teaching and training from Jesus as they walked the roads and trails, and met around the fire at night. If you want to get to know someone really well, try camping out with them for about six months. The 2nd Tour was a time for the Twelve to grow into a cohesive group of leaders clustered around Jesus, in the company and fellowship of the larger group of full-time disciples. It was a genius of a training regimen created by Jesus, the Master Teacher.

APPLICATION:

This is practical. Jesus deliberately went to every person and place in Galilee to hand-deliver the good news of the Kingdom to them. He was teaching all of his disciples to do the same. It was a routine expectation of God's kind of love to do that. Jesus did not sit back and wait for people to come to him--he took the initiative and went to them. All of them. That is what love does as a lifestyle.

Witnessing and outreach is not a special activity for a select few. It is a daily expression of the love that could not remain in heaven, but had to come to earth to give it to every person.

How are you doing in sharing the good news with every one around you?

How does Jesus' example of outreach and training on his Second Tour challenge you?

What do you need to do about it?