

Stage VI. Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
A. Jesus Travels to Jerusalem For the Feast of Tabernacles

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #142

2. Jesus Travels Through Samaria to Jerusalem

Luke 9:52-56

52 Jesus sent messengers on ahead of him, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; 53 but the people there did not welcome him, because they knew he was heading for Jerusalem.

54 When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to utterly destroy them?" 55 But Jesus turned and rebuked them.

56 Then he and his disciples went to another village.

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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, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Galilee
Timeline	September (Month 31)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
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COMMENT:

Little snapshots of events in Jesus' life like this one give us priceless insights into his nature and character. We can see his glory in every word and deed, regardless of how minor they might seem. Seeing Jesus as he really is then stirs our hearts to become like him as he lives in and through us by his Spirit.

Luke makes it clear that Jesus ended his ministry in Galilee, and headed South for Jerusalem and the Feast of Tabernacles with his thoughts fixed upon his upcoming death and resurrection. This final journey out of Galilee sealed Jesus' commitment to face his death, and triumph over the grave. Every step carried him closer to the cross.

Jesus was on the road to ultimately die for his enemies. Therefore, the enmity of the Samaritans against him on the way did not surprise or discourage him. James and John, on the other hand, reacted to prejudice and discrimination from their enemies with typical anger, and a revengeful spirit. They wanted payback. The gap between Jesus and his disciples was telling.

Jesus was not deterred. He just moved on to the next town, steadily striding toward the cross. That's what love does. The willingness to die for our enemies means we live with them in a gracious, compassionate way-- regardless of how they treat us. Jesus had taught this attitude in the "Teaching on the Mount." He demonstrated here.

This is the attitude that enabled Jesus to endure all the shame and pain of the cross. He lived it for 33 years. He held to it in his six hours of atoning agony on the cross. This is the attitude that ceaselessly motivates him to

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continue to save us today--and every day of the rest of our eternal life with him. This attitude is why salvation is a Person, not just a thing.

APPLICATION:

Do you respond to prejudice, discrimination, or persecution with anger and frustration, or prayerful compassion for your enemies?

What do you need to put into practice in order to follow Jesus' example in this reading?

How will you praise and worship him for the grace of his love lavished on you today?