

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #202

Jesus' Ministry in Perea After the Feast of dedication

Jesus Arrives in Perea For a Fruitful Season of Ministry

JN 10.40-42 (MT 19.1B-2; MK 10.1B-2)

40 Then Jesus went back across ^{MT}to the other side of the Jordan to the place where John had first been immersing in the early days. He remained there, 41 and many people--^{MT}large crowds--^Jcame to him and ^{MT}followed him, ^Mand as was his custom, he taught them ^{MT}and he healed them there.

42 They said, "Though John never performed a sign, everything that John said about this man was true."

43 And many people believed in Jesus in that place.

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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	The Area Where John the Immerser Had Preached, in Perea
Timeline	Late December, January (Months 35 & 36)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VII: Jesus' Ministry in Perea
	A. Jesus' Ministry in Perea After the Feast of Dedication
Title	I. Jesus arrives in Perea for a Fruitful Season of Ministry

COMMENT:

These verses transition us into the seventh major stage of Jesus' life and ministry: The Perean Ministry.

After the Feast of Dedication Jesus left Jerusalem with no intention of returning until Passion Week. He crossed the Jordan river into Perea, and returned to the origins of his own ministry; the region where John the Immerser had been preaching.

Our blended text shows us the agreement between Matthew Mark, John, and Luke about the Later Judean and Perean ministry periods of Jesus.

Though each writer used a different approach and maintained their own distinct perspective, they were in full agreement about the key characteristics of this period.

Matthew and Mark only included a little information about Jesus' Perean ministry in the their respective gospels. However, these verses show us they were eyewitnesses of Jesus in Perea. Their observation that Jesus was regularly performing miracles in Judea and Perea is important, for Luke did not choose to emphasize the miraculous dimension of Jesus' ministry. Luke focused on Jesus' message instead.

Unlike his early ministry in this area, all four gospel writers described the way crowds now flocked to Jesus. The people remembered the Immerser's preaching in this same place. John had not performed any miracles to attest that he was a prophet, but everything he announced about Jesus was right on target. In addition, Jesus was performing many miracles that proved he was the Messiah. People therefore came to him, and believed in him during these days.

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Jesus covered a great deal of ground during his time in Perea. He was usually on the go.

However, the responsiveness in the Immerser's former ministry ground apparently caused Jesus to remain in the area for a few weeks. After this initial time in one place, he would spend the next two months (January and February) traveling through Perea on the east side of the Jordan.

Jesus systematically evangelized the towns and villages, which his 70 disciples in teams of two had visited earlier to prepare for his coming. The Lord wanted to maintain his distance from Jerusalem.

While continuing to effectively preach the gospel to the crowds, Jesus continued to pour himself into discipleship training of the 120 plus disciples who were following him on a full-time basis.

Luke's narrative, to which we will return from the next reading, maintained the focus on Jesus' discipleship teaching, rather than his healing and preaching ministry.

APPLICATION:

John the Immerser's ministry continued to bear fruit long after he was dead. This is one of the most valuable rewards of faithful service to God; our impact continues for eternity.

Are you walking with God, and serving him each day in a way that will continue to bear fruit after you have died?

If not, what are doing with your life?

What do you need to change in order to increase the eternal value of your service?