

Wednesday Night Bible Study

September 16, 2020

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Main Study

Recap:

Nazareth was a hotbed for insurrectionist and Messiah-frenzy activity.

- "Netzer" = Root/Branch/Shoot
 - Zechariah 3:8
 - Jeremiah 23
 - Isaiah 4:2
 - Isaiah 11:1
- Nazareth known as "Shootville"--people were looking for the "shoot" or "stump" of Jesse

Luke 4:16

- "As usual"
 - Happens often
 - He's always in the Synagogue
 - Jesus abides by His own rules

What was a first-century Synagogue service like?

1. People all get seated
2. The Chuzzah--the synagogue ruler (like Nicodemus)--
3. The Preacher for the day would take his seat on the Seat of Moses
4. The Service was 45 minutes long:
 - a. Prayer (Shema Israel) (5 minutes)
 - b. Read Scripture (standing) (45 minutes)
 - i. 7-8 readings, pre-selected (probably)
 1. Parashah -- The reading from the Torah
 2. Haftarah -- The reading from the Prophets
 3. Derashah -- The "Sermon" or insights expounding on the readings (5-10 minutes of the Scripture reading time)

Jesus' shortest sermon delivered by a Rabbi in the history of sermons:

- They hand Jesus the scroll from Isaiah and, instead of preaching a sermon, He read the following:
- "Good news to the poor"
 - There was always a herald who came before the king. The "forerunner," if you will.
 - "Poor" here isn't just economical. It's talking about outsiders--lowly, downtrodden, poor in spirit
- Leviticus 25--every seven years was a year of jubilee. During these years, captives were set free. Prisoners were released. When Jesus read these things, He was saying that, "now that I'm here, we will be living in the year of Jubilee forever!"
- Isaiah 61 contains the section of Scripture Jesus read from. But He inserted Isaiah 58:6 about setting free the oppressed.
- He stops short of one line: "the day of God's vengeance." The people in there knew what was coming next--they expected the Messiah to come and exact

God's vengeance. But Jesus stops short of that and, Luke tells us, sits down. Every eye is on Him.

- He delivers the shortest sermon ever given by a Rabbi: "Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled." This is the reason He came. To set captives free. To liberate the oppressed. To give sight to the blind.
- Everyone was speaking well of him and said, "Isn't this Joseph's son?"
 - Remember, they were genealogists. They knew exactly what "Joseph's son" meant--they are asking, specifically and unequivocally, whether He is the Messiah.

Homework assignment:

What about the two illustrations in Luke 4:24-27 made the crowd want to throw Jesus off the cliff?

Rabbit Trails

Would Mary have ridden to Nazareth on a Donkey? Probably not. Donkeys were *expensive*. The Cadillac of the ancient Jewish world.

Did Jesus break the command to keep the Sabbath?

- 613 Commands in the Torah
- "Oral Law" -- They believed that Moses came down with two sets of laws: the written law in the Torah, and the Oral Law

- The only reason the Oral Law got written down was because the Temple was destroyed. So they wrote it down: the Mishnah
 - Mishnah had two sections: Talmud and Gemora
 - It was oral law interpreting the written law
- The Mishnah contained “fences” around the Written Law--smaller laws that would keep you from breaking the written law
 - Kandi told Ryder not to throw the ball down from the balcony. But she also had to say “Do not drop the ball. Do not throw the ball. Do not roll it off of the floor. Do not let the ball leave your hand.” In this example, all of those extra clarifications represent what the Mishnah would have been.
- Any “Laws” he “broke” would have been Mishnah laws: human-invented fence posts around God’s Law

Dead Sea Scrolls

- Before they were found, oldest manuscript we had was 600AD
- After we found them, we pushed it back to 1600 BC
- The scrolls we found, compared with the scrolls we had, were 97% accurate--the only differences were letters, word order, and word choice.

Jesus was with 5 disciples for 18 months

Peter, Matthew, Andrew, James, John

Jesus was with the 12 for 18 months after that

With the 72 for 6 months after that.

Additional Resources