

Harmony of the Gospels

Complete commitment required of followers

Matthew 8:19-22; Luke 9:57-62

- It is easy to have high aspirations of following Jesus at the peak of a mountaintop spiritual experience.
- Jesus always wants his followers to carefully count the cost and commit to follow with a good grasp of the cost.
- “I will follow you...but” is not the language of true discipleship
 - “Bury my father”: This man’s father was still very much alive. His desire was to see his father live out his days and claim his inheritance before making a commitment to follow Jesus.

Complete commitment required of followers

Matthew 8:19-22; Luke 9:57-62

- “Hand to the plow and looking back”.
 - Anyone who had plowed behind an animal immediately knew the folly of this practice. When plowing one must look where you are going and not where you have been in order to keep the plow where it needs to go.
 - A common hindrance to discipleship is to become preoccupied with what we cannot do to the detriment of all that is in the heart of God for us to do.
 - A distraction to discipleship is to dwell on the things we have given up to follow Jesus Christ.

Ridicule by Jesus' half-brothers John 7:2-9

- Feast of Booths (Tabernacles) commemorating the wilderness wandering during the Exodus was one of three times per year the Jews were to go to Jerusalem in Jesus' day. (This year 2016 fall on October 17-18)
- It is a tribute to the truth of the resurrection that James, one of the brothers of Jesus, would become the main leader in the Jerusalem church. This passage shows not only their unbelief but their hostility toward him.
- Our fallen tendency is to lash out in indignation when our evil is exposed.
- Jesus would go to this feast but it was not yet time to present Himself as He would later on what we know as Palm Sunday.

Journey through Samaria

Luke 9:51-56; John 7:10

- This was in October. The crucifixion of Jesus would take place in April of the next year.
- As was his custom and contrary to popular practice, Jesus went through Samaria in His travel between Galilee and Judea.
- The Samaritans took exception to the fact that Jesus was bypassing their rival place of worship at Mount Gerizim to go to observe the feast of Tabernacles at Jerusalem.

Journey through Samaria

Luke 9:51-56; John 7:10

- Jesus reveals that God's preference is always redemption rather than judgment. In a little more than a year or so the book of Acts records that the gospel is preached and received in Samaria. Too many believers today would rain down fire on the wicked rather than diligently use all the resources God makes available to us to share the life-changing gospel with them.

Mixed reaction to Jesus' teaching and miracles

John 7:11-31

- The news of Jesus' teaching and ministry would have traveled from the region of Galilee to Judea. Since this was one of the major feasts of the Jewish nation people were expecting to see him there and were surprised when He did not appear publically at the beginning of the feast.
- Some of the people based their understanding of Jesus on His teaching and deeds, others were swayed by the opposition of the religious leaders.

Mixed reaction to Jesus' teaching and miracles

John 7:11-31

- Time and again the scripture record records the power and authority of Jesus' teaching. Here is another example of people responding with amazement that what they considered a simple carpenter from a small town would have this ability.
- Jesus plainly states that His teaching is from God.
- The ones open to God's will are those who will recognize the teaching as being from God.
- Although the incident is not recorded unless it refers to an earlier time, Jesus reveals that the opposition stems from a healing on the Sabbath.
- Jesus again makes the point that is it not breaking the Sabbath law to do good on the Sabbath.

Mixed reaction to Jesus' teaching and miracles

John 7:11-31

- Evidently the plans of the religious leaders to kill Jesus were well known.
- The fact that they then allowed Him to teach freely at the feast gave some the idea that even the religious leaders entertained the possibility that Jesus could be the Messiah.
- Although the Old Testament predicts the nature and place of the birth of the Messiah popular opinion was that the Messiah would suddenly appear. This was the purpose of Satan's temptation for Jesus to jump from the pinnacle of the temple.

Mixed reaction to Jesus' teaching and miracles

John 7:11-31

- Jesus again presents Himself as the One sent from God.
- As is true today the teachings and works of Jesus find some receptive hearts.
- “Time not yet come” No human beings were controlling the events of the life of Jesus. All must be fulfilled at the proper time.

Frustrated attempt to arrest Jesus

John 7:32-52

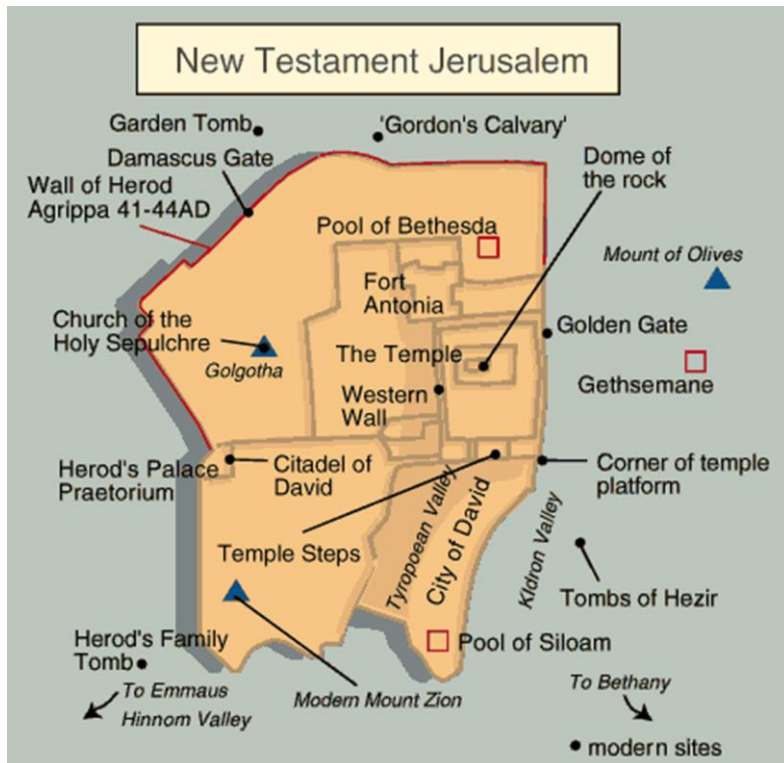
- The word that their inaction was an endorsement of Jesus prompted the religious leaders to send out officers to arrest Him.
- With the crucifixion six months away, Jesus begins to indicate to a wider audience that He would return to the Father.

Frustrated attempt to arrest Jesus

John 7:32-52

- Part of the observance of the Feast of Tabernacles was a procession where the priests would go to the Pool of Siloam take water and pour it out on the altar to symbolize God's provision of providing water for the Israelites during the Exodus.

Pool of Siloam February, 2016



Frustrated attempt to arrest Jesus

John 7:32-52

- Jesus chose this setting to reveal that He provides the living water that completely satisfies. (see Jeremiah 17:13)
- This was also a prophetic statement about the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Frustrated attempt to arrest Jesus

John 7:32-52

- Notice that Jesus would lay out a teaching and let people grapple with it. You do not see Jesus stepping in here with a lot of words of explanation. This goes back to his teaching that those with a heart to know and do the will of God would receive Him for who He is.
- Those sent to arrest Jesus were so struck by the authority of His teaching they went back to the Pharisees emptyhanded.

Frustrated attempt to arrest Jesus John 7:32-52

- The Pharisees attributed the reaction of the people to ignorance of the scriptures. They did not realize that there were those among them like Nicodemus who was both informed and believed.
- They were correct in their assessment that there was no prophecy about a prophet or the Messiah coming from Galilee. They were incorrect in their assumption that Jesus was born there.