

Life of Christ

Excerpts of Christ's Teachings and Activities

From The Middle Judean, Perea, and Latter Judean Ministries

I. The Middle Judean Ministry - John 7:10-10:39

- The Middle Judean ministry of our Lord is found in John 7:10-10:39. It occurred during the Feast of Tabernacles, which would have been in the month of Tishri (September-October our calendar) of the year A.D. 32 (if Christ was crucified in A.D. 33), or A.D. 31 (if Christ was crucified in A.D. 32).
- After this brief ministry by Christ, He traveled to Perea for the few months between the Feast of Tabernacles and the Passover at which He was crucified.
- Refer to Appendix A for a list of the Jewish Holy Days and calendar.

A. The Healing of the Blind Man - John 9

- Proves that faith does not depend on a miracle. Those who are in unbelief will remain in unbelief in spite of evidence to the contrary.
- Note the connection to God's sovereignty. This man was born blind in order that God would be glorified through his healing.

B. Christ, the Good Shepherd

1. The Picture

In ancient Israel, each town had a central sheepfold. This sheepfold consisted of a large area surrounded by walls, somewhat like a pen. One person in the town was hired to be the guard over this sheepfold, and was called a porter. Each night, the shepherds would bring their sheep to the sheepfold where they would be protected from predators and others who would take advantage of the sheep. In the morning, the shepherd would go to the sheepfold, and call for his sheep. Since they knew the voice of the shepherd, they would come to him. Only those sheep who were cared for by that shepherd would come, the others would not. The shepherd would then take his sheep out to pasture, and return again at night where he would leave the sheep with the porter in the central sheepfold. Since the porter knew the shepherd, he would only allow that shepherd to come for the sheep. If others wanted to get the sheep, they would have to climb over the walls. Robbers refer to those who would slaughter the sheep, many times right in the sheepfold, and toss the carcass over the wall where someone would take it away. Thieves on the other hand would steal live sheep.

2. The Explanation

- a. The Shepherd is Christ - vv. 1, 9-10
- b. The sheepfold is Israel.

- c. The sheep who know Christ's voice are the redeemed of Israel. Those that do not are apostate Jews or unredeemed Jews.
- d. The thieves and robbers refer to the false shepherds of Israel, the Pharisees and Sadducees, who took advantage of the sheep for their own gain. See Matthew 23.
- e. The "other sheep" of verse 16 is the redeemed of the Church, Gentile believers.

3. The Application

- a. Christ knows His sheep - vv. 3, 14.
- b. The sheep know Christ and recognize Him - vv. 4-5, 26-27.
- c. Christ protects the sheep from false shepherds and harm - vv. 7-10, 12-13.
- d. Christ lays down His life for the sheep - vv 11, 15-18.
- e. Christ gives His sheep eternal life - vv. 28-30.
- f. Christ provides for the sheep meeting their every need - vv. 9-10.

II. The Perean Ministry

- This ministry was to the areas to the East of the Jordan river, the Transjordan. It occurred between Christ's trip to the Feast of Tabernacles in September-October, and the time of His last trip to Jerusalem for the Passover in March-April.
- The chapters of Luke 9-19 contain much of the material of this ministry. It was the last major ministry of Christ.

A. Unique Lucan Parables

1. The Parable of the Rich Fool - Luke 12:13-21
 - Teaches about the uncertainty of life and the foolishness of making plans without God.
2. The Parable of the Watchful Servants - Luke 12:35-40
 - Teaches that the return of Christ will be at an unexpected time, and that the reward will be to those who are not caught by surprise.
3. The Parable of the Faithful and Unfaithful Servant - Luke 12:41-48
 - Reinforces the necessity of watchfulness.
 - Many believe that this parable teaches that there will be varying degrees of punishment for unbelievers. Alone this passage would not be enough to support that teaching, but taken with others, for example, Revelation 20:10-15, it does support that concept.

4. Parable of the Barren Fig Tree - Luke 13:6-9
 - Pictorially describes Christ's three attempts to find repentance in Israel, all to no avail.
5. Parable of the Reserved Seats - Luke 14:7-11
 - Teaches the virtues of humility.
6. Parable of the Great Supper - Luke 14:12-24
 - Teaches that the Jews forfeited their invitation to the Kingdom so God went to another people, the Gentiles.
7. Parable of the Lost Coin - Luke 15:8-10
 - Shows Christ as the seeking Savior.
8. Parable of the Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32
 - Shows Christ as the seeking Savior.
9. Parable of the Unjust Steward - Luke 16:1-13
 - Teaches the necessity of wisely using one's resources to win friends for eternity.
10. Parable of the Unprofitable Servants - Luke 17:7-10
 - Teaches how we need to serve God faithfully, and even when we have done our best we have only done our duty.

III. Christ's Teaching on Hell

A. Why Study Hell?

1. Christ, the incarnate Son of God, taught more about hell than he did about heaven.
2. Christ consistently warned those who rejected Him of the reality of hell.
3. It should serve as a great inducement for sharing the Gospel to the lost.
4. It is the eternal abode of the vast majority of mankind.
5. It is the eternal destiny of over 98% of the people we meet.
6. It is a recurrent theme in the Bible.
7. Satan will do all he can to deceive people as to the unreality of hell.

B. The Names of Hell

1. Hebrew *sheol*

- a. Universally translated “grave.”
- b. No distinction was made between the righteous and unrighteous dead.
- c. The righteous anticipated resurrection out of the grave.
(Psalms 16:9-11)

2. Greek *hades*

- a. Hades was the translation of the Hebrew word *sheol* in the LXX.
- b. It referred to the abode of the dead in Greek mythology.
- c. It occurs 11 times in the NT.

Matt 11:23	...shall be brought down to hell...
Matt 16:18	...the gates of hell shall not prevail...
Luke 10:15	...shalt be thrust down to hell...
Luke 16:23	...in hell he lift up his eyes...
Acts 2:27	...wilt not leave my soul in hell...
Acts 2:31	...his soul was not left in hell...
1 Cor 15:55	...O grave, where is thy sting... (disputed with <i>thanatos</i>)
Rev 1:18	...have the keys of hell and of death...
Rev 6:8	...was Death, and Hell followed...
Rev 20:13	...death and hell delivered up the...
Rev 20:14	...death and hell were cast into...

- d. It refers to the temporary abode of the wicked dead until judgment.
- e. Its nature is seen in the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus in Luke 19.

3. Greek *gahenna*

- a. Reference to the Valley of Tophet in which the Jews burned their children as sacrifices to Molech or Chemosh.
- b. Later, this valley became the garbage dump of Jerusalem in which fires were kept burning in order to consume the rubbish.
- c. Our Lord used this word 11 times to refer to the eternal abode of the wicked.
- d. It occurs 12 times in the NT.

Matt 5:22	...shall be in danger of hell fire...
Matt 5:29	...whole body should be cast into hell...
Matt 5:30	...whole body should be cast into hell...
Matt 10:28	...to destroy both soul and body in hell...
Matt 18:9	...two eyes to be cast into hell fire...

Matt 23:15	...more the child of hell than...
Matt 23:33	...can ye escape the damnation of hell...
Mark 9:43	...having two hands to go to hell...
Mark 9:45	...having two feet to be cast into hell...
Mark 9:47	...having two eyes to be cast into hell fire...
Luke 12:5	...hath power to cast into hell...
James 3:6	...of nature; and it is set on fire of hell...

4. Greek *tartaros*

- a. This word is used only one time in 2 Peter 2:4.
- b. In secular Greek mythology it was the innermost of the nine compartments of *hades*.
- c. It is used in the NT to refer to the abode of demons who "left their first estate".

5. Greek *abussos*

- a. It is used in the NT to refer to the abode of demons.
- b. It occurs 9 times in the NT.

Luke 8:31	...command them to go out into the deep...
Rom 10:7	...who shall descend into the deep...
Rev 9:1	...the key of the bottomless pit...
Rev 9:2	...And he opened the bottomless pit...
Rev 9:11	...the angel of the bottomless pit...
Rev 11:7	...that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit...
Rev 17:8	...shall ascend out of the bottomless pit...
Rev 20:1	...having the key of the bottomless pit...
Rev 20:5	...cast him into the bottomless pit...

- c. In Greek mythology it was the deepest pit in *hades*.

6. Lake of Fire

- a. This term is used to refer to the eternal abode of the wicked dead.
- b. It is used 5 times exclusively in Revelations 19-20 to refer to the abode of the unrighteous dead after final judgment.

Rev 19:20	...cast alive into a lake of fire...
Rev 20:10	...was cast into the lake of fire...
Rev 20:14	...were cast into the lake of fire...
Rev 20:15	...was cast into the lake of fire...
Rev 21:8	...their part in the lake which burneth...

C. What Hell is Like

Many would like to believe that the torment of hell is only temporary. Almost all of the cults deny the existence or eternity of hell. However, the Bible teaches

that hell is a real place where people suffer real pain and anguish with no hope of escape.

1. It is a place of unrelieved torment

a. Physical pain and anguish

Matt 8:12	...weeping and gnashing...
Matt 13:50	..wailing and gnashing...
Matt 22:13	...weeping and gnashing...
Matt 24:51	...weeping and gnashing...
Matt 25:30	...weeping and gnashing...
Luke 13:28	...weeping and gnashing...
Luke 16:24-25	...tormented in this flame...
Rev 14:11	...torment ascends forever...
Rev 21:8	...burns with fire and brimstone...

b. Remembrance of the good things in life

Luke 16:25	...remember that in your lifetime...
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c. Physical deprivation

Luke 16:24	...dip the tip of his finger in water...
Rev 14:11	...no rest day or night...

d. Darkness

Matt 8:12	...outer darkness...
Matt 22:13	...into outer darkness...
Matt 25:30	...outer darkness...

2. It is eternal, there is no escape

Matt 25:41	...everlasting fire prepared...
Matt 25:46	...everlasting punishment...
Rev 14:11	...torment ascends forever...

3. It is a place of punishment in varying degrees

Heb 10:29	...of how much worse punishment...
Matt 11:22	...more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon...
Matt 11:24	...more tolerable for the land of Sodom...
Luke 12:47-49	...beaten with few stripes...
	...beaten with many stripes...

D. Who goes to the Lake of Fire?

A. All of the unredeemed of all the ages

Rev 21:8	...But the cowardly, unbelieving...
1 Cor 6:9-10	...unrighteous will not inherit the...

B. Satan and his angels

Matt 25:41 ...everlasting fire prepared...
Rev 20:10 ...was cast into the lake of fire...

IV. The Cost of Discipleship - Matthew 8:19-22; 16:24-28, Luke 9:23-25; 9:57-62; 14:25-33

- Many try to split up salvation and discipleship into two separate propositions. However, Christ's call to discipleship was a call to salvation. (For further material refer to the book by John MacArthur, *The Gospel According to Jesus*, chapter 19).
- Christ, however, called men to follow Him without qualification. He called men to give up everything in order to follow Him. This is exemplified in the Parable of the Pearl and the Parable of the Hidden Treasure.

A. Discipleship, the mission of the Church - Matthew 28:19-20

1. The only verb is *matheteusate*, "make disciples." The mission of the church is not to win souls, baptize, or teach, but to make disciples.
2. Making disciples involves:
 - a. Bringing people to Christ - salvation.
 - b. Baptizing them.
 - c. Teaching them to observe all that God has commanded them.
 - d. Teaching them to reproduce.

B. Christ's model of discipleship - the Twelve**C. Christ's teaching on discipleship**

1. Discipleship involves a great cost.
 - a. A willingness to die - Luke 14:27.
 - b. A willingness to follow Christ at all costs - Luke 14:26-27.
 - c. A willingness to leave all for Christ - Luke 14:33
 - d. A willingness to endure physical deprivation - Luke 9:58, Matthew 8:19
 - e. A willingness to forsake family - Matthew 8:21-22, Luke 9:58; 14:26
 - f. A willingness to deny self - Matthew 16:24, Luke 9:23
2. Discipleship involves counting the cost - Luke 14:28-32
3. It is a call to salvation - Matthew 16:25-26, Luke 9:24-25

V. The Latter Judean Ministry

- The Latter Judean ministry encompasses the journey by Christ from Perea into the area of Jerusalem through Jericho, and the passion week. Since we will be looking at the passion week by itself, we will only mention the major events from Perea to Jerusalem.
- A. The Healing of the Blind Men in Jericho - Matthew 20:29-34, Mark 10:46-52, Luke 18:35-43
- B. Christ and Zaccheus - Luke 19:1-10