

7/5/15

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR
HAS COME, WEEK 73

TITLE: A MERCY MISSION

TEXT: LUKE 9:51-56

INTRODUCTION: (1) OUR GOD IS A GOD OF
MERCY.

* IF HE WERE NOT, WE WOULD NOT BE ALIVE
TODAY, FOR LAMENTATIONS 3:22&23 SAYS:
(QUOTE IT).

**** AND TRULY THE LORD'S MERCIES ARE NEW**
EVERY MORNING WE ARE ALIVE, AND I PRAISE
THE LORD TODAY FOR NEW MERCIES.

*** YET MERCY IS A PART OF WHO OUR GOD IS.
FOR IN I CORINTHIANS 1:3&4 IT SAYS THAT OUR
GOD IS THE FATHER OF MERCIES. (QUOTE IT).

*** THEN IN EPHESIANS 2:4 IT SAYS GOD IS RICH IN MERCY (QUOTE IT).

**** AND THEN IN PSALM 86:15, DAVID CALLED **HIM, "A GOD MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS."**

(2) AND THEN ZECHARIAH THE FATHER OF JOHN **THE BAPTIST SPOKE OF "THE TENDER MERCY OF OUR GOD" IN LUKE 1:78.**

* AND IN HEBREWS 2:17 THE INSPIRED TEXT **DESCRIBES JESUS AS "A MERCIFUL AND FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST."**

** NOW WITH THAT SAID, WE THAT HAVE BEEN SHOWN MERCY ARE COMMANDED TO SHOW MERCY AND ARE BLESSED AS WE SHOW IT.

*** FOR EXAMPLE, EARLIER IN LUKE 6:36, JESUS **INSTRUCTED BELIEVERS TO "BE MERCIFUL, JUST AS YOUR FATHER IS MERCIFUL."**

**** IN THE BEATITUDES JESUS SAID: QUOTE MATTHEW 5:7.

(3) AND THEN JAMES WARNED THAT THOSE **WHO FAIL TO SHOW MERCY WILL FACE GOD'S JUDGMENT, SINCE "JUDGMENT WILL BE MERCILESS TO ONE WHO HAS SHOWN NO MERCY; MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT,"** IN JAMES 2:13.

* AND FINALLY IN PROVERBS 11:17 SOLOMON **SAID THAT "THE MERCIFUL MAN DOES HIMSELF GOOD, BUT THE CRUEL MAN DOES HIMSELF HARM."**

** SO IN SUMMARY OUR GOD IS MERCIFUL, WE ARE COMMANDED TO BE MERCIFUL AND ARE BLESSED AS WE ARE MERCIFUL.

*** NOW WITH THOSE TRUTHS BEFORE US, LET ME ATTEMPT TO DEFINE MERCY BIBLICALLY.

**** MERCY IS COMPASSION. MERCY IS PITY, MERCY IS KINDNESS OR GOOD WILL TOWARD THE MISERABLE AND THE AFFLICTED, JOINED WITH A DESIRE TO HELP THEM, AND AS WE HELP THEM WE ARE SHOWING MERCY.

(4) MERCY IS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE REACHING **OUT TO MEET A PERSON'S NEED, REGARDLESS** OF WHETHER THEY DESERVE IT OR NOT.

* MERCY IS KINDNESS MEETING A NEED.

** MERCY IS PUT IN GEAR, ACTIVATED BY THE HARDSHIP AND SUFFERING OF OTHERS AND GRANTS THEM LOVING-KINDNESS THAT DOES GOOD TO PEOPLE SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY ARE IN NEED, AND IT IS UNCONDITIONAL.

*** NOW WITH THESE DEFINITIONS BEFORE US WHY AM I TALKING ABOUT MERCY FROM OUR TEXT TODAY WHEN THE WORD MERCY IS NOT EVEN MENTIONED?

**** WELL, ALTHOUGH THE WORD MERCY IS NOT USED, THE TRUTH OF MERCY IS TAUGHT **CLEARLY, IT IS IMPLICIT IN OUR LORD'S** DIRECTION AND WORDS.

(5) NO. 1 BY HIS WILLINGNESS TO GO THROUGH SAMARIA ON HIS WAY TO JUDEA; AND NO. 2 BY HIS WORDS TO JAMES AND JOHN WHOM WANTED TO INCINERATE THE PEOPLE IN A SAMARITAN VILLAGE WHOM REFUSED TO SHOW COMMON HOSPITALITY TO JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES.

* AND BELOVED, JESUS SEIZED THE **OPPORTUNITY BY A SAMARITAN'S VILLAGE** REJECTION OF HIM TO TEACH HIS DISCIPLES A RIVETING AND UNFORGETTABLE LESSON ON MERCY.

** AND THE TIMING OF THIS LESSON IS PERFECT, FOR IT FOLLOWS A RECENT LESSON ON HUMILITY IN LUKE 9:46-50.

*** FOR ONLY THE HUMBLE ARE MERCIFUL. AND ALTHOUGH THIS LESSON IS THE NEXT THING IN **LUKE'S TEXT, WE'LL SEE IT WAS PROBABLY NOT** TOO LONG AFTERWARDS, WE HAVE THIS FOLLOW-UP LESSON, FOR HUMILITY LEADS TO **BEING MERCIFUL, FOR WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE** EGO, YOU MEET NEEDS REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ARE DESERVING OR NOT.

**** AND WITH MERCY AS A THEME AS JESUS STARTS TO GO TO JERUSALEM, **I'VE TITLED MY** SERMON TODAY, A MERCY MISSION AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH LUKE 9:51-56 AND **WE'LL LOOK AT 4 POINTS.**

(6) NO. 1 THE RESOLVE OF JESUS AS A MAN ON A MISSION, VV. 51&52; NO. 2 THE REJECTION OF JESUS BY A SAMARITAN VILLAGE, V. 53; NO. 3 THE REACTION OF JAMES AND JOHN, V. 54; AND NO. 4 THE REBUKE BY JESUS OF JAMES AND JOHN, VV. 55&56.

* AND WITH THAT OUTLINE AS OUR MAP TO **FOLLOW, LOOK AT V. 51 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL** START TO SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE RESOLVE OF JESUS.

I. THE RESOLVE, (READ V. 51)

A. NOW THE PHRASE, "WHEN THE DAYS," OR "AND IT CAME TO PASS" OR "AS THE TIME APPROACHED" OR "WHEN THE DAYS DREW NEAR," DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION, COMMUNICATES, SIGNIFIES THAT A PERIOD OF TIME HAD PASSED SINCE LUKE 9:46-50.

* AND AS I INDICATED JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO, THE LESSON ON HUMILITY PROBABLY DID NOT TAKE PLACE TOO LONG AFTERWARD.

** BUT NOTE V. 51 MARKS A MAJOR TURNING **POINT IN LUKE'S GOSPEL OF CHRIST'S MINISTRY** AND LIFE.

*** FOR LUKE 9:51 STARTS WHAT IS CALLED THE TRAVEL NARRATIVE, THE TRAVEL SECTION OF THIS GOSPEL AND GOES ALL THE WAY THROUGH LUKE 19:27 AS JESUS STARTS HIS JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM.

**** MEANING HIS GALILEAN MINISTRY IS BASICALLY OVER, HE MAKES SOME BRIEF RETURNS LIKE IN LUKE 17:11-37, BUT GALILEE WAS NO LONGER HIS BASE OF OPERATIONS.

1. AND JESUS SHIFTS HIS FOCUS FROM A LOT OF MIRACLES AND PREACHING TO TEACHING AND PARABLES. AND JESUS WAS PREPARING HIS DISCIPLES TO CARRY ON HIS MINISTRY AFTER HIS DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION.

* AND MUCH OF THE MATERIAL IN THIS SECTION IS **UNIQUE TO LUKE'S GOSPEL. AND JESUS WILL** START A JOURNEY OF DESTINY, WHICH IS NOT A STRAIGHT LINE TRIP FROM POINT A TO B, BUT ULTIMATELY TO GO TO JERUSALEM AND DIE, AND GO TO MANY PLACES BEFORE THAT ULTIMATE TRIP TO JERUSALEM.

** FOR NOTICE AS WE GO BACK TO V. 51 THAT **JESUS "WAS DETERMINED TO GO TO JERUSALEM," MEANING HE "SET HIS FACE TO GO," AN OLD TESTAMENT EXPRESSION FOR "TO RESOLVE."**

*** AND THIS WORD IN THE GREEK TRANSLATED DETERMINED DESCRIBES SOMETHING THAT IS FIXED, FIRMLY ESTABLISHED OR IMMOVABLE.

**** **AND THIS WORD EXPRESSES CHRIST'S UNSHAKABLE, UNWAVERING RESOLVE, HIS DETERMINATION, A FIXEDNESS OF PURPOSE, ESPECIALLY IN THE PROSPECT OF DIFFICULTY AND DANGER, TO DO HIS FATHER'S WILL AND DIE ON THE CROSS, RISE AGAIN AND ASCEND TO HIS FATHER. AND THAT IN ITSELF WAS A MERCY MISSION.**

2. BUT THAT WAS THE RESOLVE OF CHRIST, HE TRULY WAS ON A JOURNEY OF DESTINY, AND **THAT'S ULTIMATELY WHY JESUS CAME, HE WAS BORN TO DIE.**

* AND NOTICE FURTHER AS WE GO BACK TO V. 51, IT SAYS: "WHEN THE DAYS WERE APPROACHING FOR HIS ASCENSION."

** THUS WHEN THE DAYS WERE DRAWING NEAR FOR HIS ASCENSION, AS THE TIME APPROACHED FOR HIM TO BE RECEIVED UP, WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR HIM TO BE RECEIVED, HE WAS RESOLUTE TO ARRIVE ON TIME FOR HIS PREPLANNED APPOINTMENT. THERE WAS DOGGED DETERMINATION TO DO WHAT HIS FATHER WANTED HIM TO DO.

*** AND ASCENSION MAKES REFERENCE TO BEING TAKEN UP, AND WOULD INCLUDE THE CROSS, WHERE HE IS LIFTED UP TO DIE, HIS RESURRECTION WHEN HE ASCENDS FROM THE GRAVE AND HIS ASCENSION TO HEAVEN, ULTIMATE ASCENSION TO GLORY, THE CROWN. THE CROSS WOULD LEAD TO GLORY.

**** SO CHRIST WAS ON A MISSION OF MERCY, **HE WAS RESOLUTE IN DOING GOD'S WILL, AND** IT STARTS TO MOVE TO THAT END IN V. 51, THE RESOLVE OF CHRIST TO GO TO JERUSALEM, TO FULFILL THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH HE CAME TO THIS PLANET.

3. SO THE RESOLVE OF CHRIST IS THE KEY THOUGHT IN V. 51 IN HIS MISSION. AND IN DOING THAT HE WANTS TO GO THROUGH SAMARIA ON HIS JOURNEY AT THIS TIME. LOOK AT V. 52 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 52. NOW TO GO TOWARD JERUSALEM YOU NEED TO GO THROUGH SAMARIA TO GET TO JUDEA FROM GALILEE.

* NOW WHAT IS SURPRISING ABOUT THAT IS MOST JEWS TOOK GREAT PAINS TO AVOID GOING THROUGH SAMARIA.

** FOR EXAMPLE, JEWS TRAVELING FROM GALILEE TO JUDEA WOULD CROSS TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE JORDAN RIVER THROUGH PEREA, AND THEN RECROSS THE RIVER AT JERICHO AND GO UP INTO JUDEA.

*** AND THE REASON FOR THAT WAS JEWS CONSIDERED THE SAMARITANS TO BE RACIAL HALF-BREEDS AS PART JEW AND PART GENTILE, AND CONSIDERED THEM TO BE RELIGIOUS APOSTATES, FOR THE SAMARITANS SET UP A RIVAL TEMPLE TO JERUSALEM ON MT. GERIZIM.

**** AND TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT, THEY HATED EACH OTHER.

1. HOWEVER JESUS NEEDED TO TEACH HIS DISCIPLES TO REACH OUT TO THE SAMARITANS AND COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL OF MERCY, AND THE FIRST INCIDENT ON THEIR JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM PROVIDED SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY.

* AND BY BEING WILLING TO GO THROUGH SAMARIA, OUR LORD SHOWED THAT HIS MISSION OF SAVING MERCY TRANSCENDED ALL RACIAL AND CULTURAL BOUNDARIES.

** AND ON ONE HAND, JESUS WAS WILLING TO GO TO JERUSALEM WHERE THE HATE FILLED JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS WOULD KILL HIM, AND THEN ON THE OTHER HAND GO TO A SAMARITAN TOWN THAT THOSE SAME RELIGIOUS LEADERS WOULD NEVER DREAM OF GOING TO.

*** SO WHAT DID JESUS DO IN V. 52? HE SENT MESSENGERS ON AHEAD OF HIM TO A SAMARITAN VILLAGE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOOD AND LODGING.

**** OUR LORD SENT OUT A TEAM TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR A GROUP OF 13 OR MORE COMING TO A SMALL VILLAGE, TO GET THINGS READY FOR JESUS AND HIS MINISTRY TEAM TO COME, FOR FOOD AND LODGING, FOR HOSPITALITY TO BE PREARRANGED.

2. THUS OUR LORD WOULD BE REACHING OUT EVEN TO PEOPLE DESPISED BY HIS FELLOW JEWS TO OFFER THE HOPE OF SALVATION, JESUS WAS ON A MERCY MISSION.

* WELL, WHAT IS THE RESPONSE BY THE SAMARITANS? WELL, THE ANSWER IS REJECTION, WHICH IS OUR SECOND POINT TODAY, THE REJECTION. LOOK AT V. 53 PLEASE.

II. THE REJECTION, (READ V. 53)

A. NOW THE RESPONSE OF THE SAMARITAN VILLAGE THAT JESUS WANTED TO GO TO WAS, **"THEY DID NOT RECEIVE HIM."**

* SO IN ESSENCE WHAT DID THEY DO TO JESUS? THEY REJECTED HIM. AND APPARENTLY, THERE WAS NO MORE ROOM FOR JESUS IN SAMARIA THAN THERE HAD BEEN IN BETHLEHEM WHEN HE WAS BORN, OR THAN THERE WOULD BE IN JERUSALEM IN THE FUTURE.

** NOW THE REASON THEY DID NOT RECEIVE JESUS WAS BECAUSE HE WAS TRAVELING TOWARD JERUSALEM.

*** MEANING, THE INHABITANTS OF THIS TOWN HEARD THAT JESUS WAS HEADED FOR JERUSALEM. AND THE LAST THING A SAMARITAN WANTED TO DO WAS HELP A JEW GET TO JERUSALEM, WHERE THE JEWISH TEMPLE WAS LOCATED.

**** BELOVED, THEIR FEUD WITH THE JEWS WAS SO BITTER THAT THEY WOULD NOT HELP ANYONE TRAVEL TO JERUSALEM. THE SAMARITANS REJECTED ALL WHO WOULD WORSHIP AT JERUSALEM INCLUDING JESUS, WHOM THEY NO DOUBT HEARD OF.

1. THE SAMARITANS HATED THE HOLY CITY SO MUCH, JERUSALEM, FOR A PERSON TO GO THERE WAS A SLAP IN THE FACE TO THEM. THUS THEY **DON'T PRACTICE BASIC HOSPITALITY OF THAT DAY.** THEY REJECT JESUS.

*** WELL JAMES AND JOHN DON'T REACT REAL WELL TO THIS REJECTION. LOOK AT V. 54 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE THE REACTION OF JAMES AND JOHN TO THE REJECTION OF JESUS, OUR THIRD POINT TODAY.**

III. THE REACTION, (READ V. 54)

A. NOW FROM V. 54, WE SEE WHY JESUS GAVE JAMES AND JOHN THE NAME BOANERGES IN MARK 3:17 WHICH MEANS "SONS OF THUNDER."

* I MEAN IN THEIR VOLATILE FIERY NATURE THEY WANTED TO INCINERATE THE SAMARITAN **VILLAGE. "PUFF," LET IT GO UP IN SMOKE, TO REDUCE THAT VILLAGE TO DUST.**

** I MEAN THESE TWO BROTHERS IN THEIR ANGER TOWARD THESE SAMARITANS IN THEIR NOT BEING WILLING TO RECEIVE JESUS INTO **THEIR VILLAGE, ASKED JESUS, "DO YOU WANT US TO COMMAND FIRE TO COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND CONSUME THEM?"**

*** AND BOY THIS QUESTION IS LOVING AND MERCIFUL. AND WHAT PROMPTED IT? WELL, **IT'S SOMETHING THAT ELIJAH OR ELIAS DID.**

**** FOR IN THAT SAME REGION ELIJAH DID SOMETHING SIMILAR TO THAT IN II KINGS 1:9-16.

1. AND IN THAT TEXT KING AHAZIAH OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL SENT A COMPANY OF 50 MEN TO ARREST ELIJAH. AND ELIJAH CALLED DOWN FIRE FROM HEAVEN WHICH CONSUMED ALL 50 OF THEM.

* AND THE KING SENT A SECOND COMPANY OF FIFTY MEN AND THEY MET THE SAME FATE. FINALLY A THIRD COMPANY OF MEN WAS SENT AND THE COMMANDER BEGGED ELIJAH TO SPARE HIS LIFE AND THE LIVES OF HIS MEN, AND ELIJAH DID. AND THEN ELIJAH JOINED HIM AND WENT WITH HIM TO THE KING AND **PRONOUNCED GOD'S JUDGMENT.**

** WELL, FROM WHAT ELIJAH DID, JAMES AND JOHN THOUGHT THEY HAD AN OCCASION TO DO THE SAME.

** AND MY INITIAL RESPONSE IS JAMES AND JOHN ARE SO UNLOVING, BUT I THINK, I'D LIKE TO DO THAT AT TIMES AGAINST THOSE WHO REJECT CHRIST AND HIS WORD, AND HIS TRUTH AND MOCK GOD. BUT THAT WOULD NEVER BE MERCIFUL AS ONE WHO HAS RECEIVED MERCY BY SOVEREIGN GRACE. FOR WHAT SEPARATES US FROM THE SAMARITANS AND UNGODLY PEOPLE?

*** AND THE ANSWER IS MERCY AND GRACE. AND LET US BE REMINDED OF THAT. WHAT DO WE DESERVE? THE ANSWER IS WRATH, ETERNAL FIRE IN JUDGMENT.

**** SO BE REMINDED OF EPHESIANS 2:1-5 AND VV. 8&9 (QUOTE THEM.)

2. WE THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN MERCY SHOULD BE MERCIFUL AND MUCH MORE GRACIOUS, NOT GIVING PEOPLE WHAT THEY DESERVE, BUT WHAT THEY DON'T DESERVE, MERCY.

* AND LET ME GIVE YOU SOME HOPE TODAY OF WHAT THE LORD WILL DO IN OUR LIVES FROM THE LIFE OF JOHN, ONE OF THE SONS OF THUNDER.

** HE WAS INSPIRED TO WRITE 5 BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. HE WAS AND IS CALLED THE APOSTLE OF LOVE, THE BELOVED APOSTLE, THE DISCIPLE WHOM JESUS LOVED, THE APOSTLE THAT JESUS ENTRUSTED THE CARE OF HIS MOTHER TO.

*** JOHN MATURED, JOHN CHANGED FROM A THUNDEROUS PERSONALITY THAT WANTS TO CALL FIRE DOWN FROM HEAVEN TO INCINERATE A VILLAGE OF SAMARITANS TO ONE THAT LOVES THE SAMARITANS ENOUGH TO BE SENT BACK TO THEM IN ACTS. 8:14.

**** FOR ACTS 8:14 SAYS: NOW WHEN THE APOSTLES IN JERUSALEM HEARD THAT SAMARIA HAD RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD, THEY SENT THEM PETER AND JOHN.

3. AND THEN IN ACTS 8:25 IT SAYS: "SO, WHEN THEY HAD SOLEMNLY TESTIFIED AND SPOKEN THE WORD OF THE LORD, THEY STARTED BACK TO JERUSALEM, AND WERE PREACHING THE GOSPEL TO MANY VILLAGES OF THE SAMARITANS."

* NOW IN THIS CONTEXT, PETER AND JOHN ARE PREACHING THE GOSPEL TO SAMARITAN VILLAGES, MAYBE EVEN TO THE ONE THAT JOHN WANTED TO INCINERATE WITH FIRE FROM HEAVEN.

** AND MY POINT IS JOHN CHANGED FROM A SON OF THUNDER TO A SON OF LOVE. JOHN MATURED, JOHN WAS SANCTIFIED IN HIS WALK WITH THE LORD AND THE LORD WILL TAKE WEAKNESSES AND TURN THEM INTO STRENGTHS.

*** JOHN WAS A JERK IN LUKE 9:54, BUT BECAME THE APOSTLE OF LOVE, THROUGH THE GRACE AND POWER OF JESUS CHRIST, WHICH GIVES HOPE TO ME AND SHOULD GIVE HOPE TO YOU IN AREAS OF WEAKNESS AND SIN. WE CAN CHANGE THROUGH CHRIST, JOHN DID.

**** WELL, THE REACTION OF JAMES AND JOHN IN LUKE 9:54 LEADS TO A REBUKE FROM JESUS IN V. 55, WHICH BRINGS US TO ONE LAST POINT TODAY BEGINNING IN V. 55, THE REBUKE. LOOK AT V. 55 PLEASE.

IV. THE REBUKE, (READ V. 55)

A. NOW BOTTOM LINE, JAMES AND JOHN LACKED MERCY AND JESUS REBUKED THEM FOR IT. JESUS REBUKED THEM FOR THEIR MERCILESS ATTITUDE.

* BELOVED, THEY LACKED LOVE, GRACE AND KINDNESS, THEY HAD THE WRONG KIND OF SPIRIT.

** AND THERE IS A TEXTUAL ARGUMENT THAT THE REST OF V. 55 LACKS MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE, BUT THE REALITY IS THAT TRUTH IS TAUGHT ELSEWHERE, JAMES AND JOHN HAD THE WRONG KIND OF SPIRIT.

*** FOR JESUS ALREADY MADE CLEAR AS HE SENT OUT THE 12 IN LUKE 9:5 THAT WHEN PEOPLE DID NOT RECEIVE THEM, THEY WERE TO SHAKE THE DUST OFF THEIR FEET AS A TESTIMONY AGAINST THEM, AND CERTAINLY THOSE REJECTERS WERE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR GREAT SIN AND WOULD BE JUDGED IF THEY FAILED TO REPENT, BUT NOW IS THE TIME OF MERCY, NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION, AND IF THEY FAIL TO REPENT AND TURN TO JESUS THEY WILL BE JUDGED ETERNALLY IN HELL.

**** AND THE THOUGHT IS THAT NOW IS THE DAY OF MERCY IS CLARIFIED IN V. 56, LOOK AT V. 56 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 56. NOW THE PURPOSE FOR JESUS COMING INTO OUR WORLD WAS TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SIN. JESUS CAME TO SAVE HIS OWN, JESUS CAME TO SAVE PEOPLE, LUKE 19:10: (QUOTE IT.) ALSO QUOTE JOHN 3:17&18.

* AND BELOVED, I AM NOT LAYING ASIDE GOD'S JUDGMENT THAT GOD IS HOLY AND WILL BRING FORTH WRATH.

** THIS WAS NOT YET A DAY FOR JUDGMENT ON THE SAMARITANS; IT WAS STILL A TIME FOR MERCY.

*** THERE WAS STILL TIME TO REPENT AND THUS IT WAS WRONG FOR JAMES AND JOHN TO SEEK THE SAMARITAN'S DESTRUCTION BEFORE THEIR TIME.

**** AND PLEASE KEEP THIS IN MIND. THE SAMARITANS REJECTED JESUS BECAUSE HE WAS TRAVELING TO THE TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM ACCORDING TO V. 53, "THEY DID NOT RECEIVE HIM BECAUSE HE WAS TRAVELING TOWARD JERUSALEM."

1. AND AT THIS POINT IT APPEARS THEY REJECTED JESUS, NOT BECAUSE HE CLAIMED TO BE LORD AND SAVIOR AND MESSIAH BUT AGAIN BECAUSE HE WAS A JEW GOING TO JERUSALEM.

* AND AS I SAID EARLIER, LATER ON SAMARITANS WOULD BE SAVED, MAYBE SOME IN THIS PARTICULAR VILLAGE.

** AND IN APPLICATION TO ATTEMPT TO BRING OUR TEXT TOGETHER TODAY, I GO TO PHILIP GRAHAM RYKEN'S COMMENTARY FOR SOME GREAT INSIGHT AND I QUOTE:

*** THE ERROR OF THESE DISCIPLES REMINDS US HOW WRONG CHRISTIANS CAN BE, EVEN WHEN WE KNOW WE ARE RIGHT. JAMES AND JOHN HAD FAITH IN THE POWER OF GOD. THEY SPOKE OUT OF CONCERN FOR THE HONOR OF CHRIST, AND WITH A CLEAR BIBLICAL PRECEDENT. YET THEY WERE STILL IN THE WRONG. THEIR ZEAL WAS NOT ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE. J.C. RYLE WISELY COMMENTS:

**** "IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE MUCH ZEAL FOR CHRIST, AND YET TO EXHIBIT IT IN MOST UNHOLY AND UNCHRISTIAN WAYS. IT IS POSSIBLE TO MEAN WELL AND HAVE GOOD INTENTIONS, AND YET TO MAKE MOST GRIEVOUS MISTAKES IN OUR ACTIONS. IT IS POSSIBLE TO FANCY THAT WE HAVE SCRIPTURE ON OUR SIDE, AND TO SUPPORT OUR CONDUCT BY SCRIPTURAL QUOTATIONS AND YET TO COMMIT SERIOUS ERRORS.

**** IT IS CLEAR AS DAYLIGHT, FROM THIS AND OTHER CASES RELATED IN THE BIBLE, THAT IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BE ZEALOUS AND WELL-MEANING. VERY GRAVE FAULTS ARE FREQUENTLY COMMITTED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS. FROM NO QUARTER PERHAPS HAS THE CHURCH RECEIVED SO MUCH INJURY AS FROM IGNORANT BUT WELL-MEANING MEN."

(1) WE NEED MORE THAN GOOD INTENTIONS; WE NEED RIGHTEOUS ACTIONS. WE NEED MORE THAN ZEAL FOR GOD'S GLORY; WE NEED HEARTS THAT ARE FILLED WITH THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST. WE NEED MORE THAN THE KNOWLEDGE OF SCRIPTURE; WE NEED SPIRITUAL INSIGHT TO KNOW HOW TO APPLY IT TO OUR OWN SITUATION. NEVER IS THIS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHEN WE THINK WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO DEFEND GOD'S CAUSE.

* WE MAY BE RIGHT ABOUT THE SIN IN SOMEONE'S LIFE, OR A PROBLEM IN THE CHURCH, OR SOME UNGODLINESS IN GOVERNMENT, OR THE PREVAILING ERRORS OF OUR CULTURE. BUT ARE WE RESPONDING IN A WAY THAT DEMONSTRATES THE KINDNESS OF GOD, THE MERCY OF CHRIST, AND THE TRUTH OF THE SPIRIT SPEAKING IN SCRIPTURE?

** JESUS REJECTS ANY FORM OF VIOLENT RESPONSE FROM THE CHURCH ACTING AS THE CHURCH. THERE WILL BE A DAY OF JUDGMENT, BUT THAT FIERY VERDICT IS FOR GOD TO RENDER. IN THE MEANTIME, THIS IS THE DAY OF SALVATION, WHEN THERE IS STILL TIME FOR PEOPLE TO REPENT - EVEN PEOPLE WHO HAVE REJECTED JESUS CHRIST. OUR PRESENT CALLING IS NOT TO SEEK REVENGE AGAINST GOD'S ENEMIES, BUT TO SERVE THEM IN LOVE, ASKING GOD TO TEMPER THE HARSH EDGE OF OUR ZEAL WITH THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST.

*** AND BELOVED WE SHOULD BE A PEOPLE AS BELIEVERS THAT ARE MERCIFUL.

**** WHY? WE HAVE RECEIVED MERCY. WE HAVE EXPERIENCED MERCY. WE KNOW MERCY, SO HOW CAN WE NOT BE MERCIFUL?

***** AND FOLLOWING UP THE LAST TWO SUNDAYS ON THE THEME OF HUMILITY, OUR LACK OF MERCY REVEALS A LACK OF HUMILITY.

(2) AND OUR HOT FIERY ANGER AGAINST PEOPLE WE DISAGREE WITH TODAY IN POLITICS AND RELIGION DOES NOT MANY TIMES COME FROM RIGHTEOUS HOLY CONTROLLED ANGER, WHICH THERE SHOULD BE, BUT COMES FROM PROUD SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT SHOWS A LACK OF MERCY, WHICH I CONFESS I FALL INTO AT TIMES.

* SO BE REMINDED TODAY AS I BEGAN WITH, QUOTE LAMENTATIONS 3:22.

** AND LASTLY IF YOU ARE HERE TODAY WITHOUT THE SAVIOR, YOUR NEED IS MERCY FROM CHRIST, CRY OUT TO HIM FOR IT IN REPENTANT FAITH TO BE FORGIVEN OF YOUR SINS. (LET'S PRAY)