

VV STUDY NOTES: 9th July 2022

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Moving towards Jerusalem

Scriptures: Luke 13:22 – 14:24

The gospel writers were more intent on telling us about the actions and sayings Jesus than they were in the detailed historical timing of the events.

This doesn't fit with our calendar and diary approach to life. We often judge the truth of an event, by "what happened when?"

This modern approach doesn't seem to be of much importance to the Gospel writers. **Why?**

The contrasts between the cultural practices of those times are poles apart from those in the 21st Century western culture. That reality permeates through everything we have been studying.

I have no agenda in my own mind for this week, other than to stimulate robust discussion of the passage.

I have posed questions to stimulate your thinking.

At the beginning of each section, I will invite additional questions.

The Narrow Door: Luke 13:22-30

This passage opens all sorts of avenues of discussion.

- "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" Does Jesus say YES or NO?
- Does (v 24-27) suggest there will be lots of people who think they know God, but will discover in the judgement that they have deceived themselves?
- What is Jesus asserting with his reference (v29) to the point of the compass?
- How broad is the application of the principle (v30) about FIRST and LAST?

Jesus' Sorrow for Jerusalem: Luke 13:31-35

Jesus' love for Israel and Jerusalem comes out in many different forms. It's painful for him to contemplate the upcoming disaster that will befall them. Luke returns to this theme in Luke 19 when Jesus weeps over Jerusalem in the days before the crucifixion.

There are some interesting questions relating to this section.

- Were the Pharisees who told him Herod wanting to kill him friends or foes?
- Did Jesus have much respect for Herod?
- Is there any significance to Jesus' saying: "on the third day I will reach my goal"?
- Why does he refocus his attention back to the importance of them recognizing him for the prophet he was and the mission he had?

Jesus at the Pharisee's House: Luke 14:1-14

- Would it be true to say that many of the leading Pharisees were trying to entrap Jesus?
- Jesus has already been attacked over the issue of healing on the Sabbath. He heals someone again and they remain silent. Why?

Jesus goes on to talk about the Wedding Feast (v7-11) and the Giving of a feast (v 12-14)

- What contribution do these comments have to the challenges of this situation?
- Were these instructions meant to be absolutes for all such events?
- Why does he tie the idea of ministry to the poor, to the issue of the Judgment (v14)?

The Parable of the Great Banquet: Luke 14:15-24

This parable was triggered by the comment of someone on his own table.

What are the limitations of telling parables?

When Jesus in (v. 24) says none of those invited will taste of **my** banquet he clearly identifies himself as the host in in this story. How does that affect how we interpret the story?

There are words like ANGER, ORDER, COMPEL. Should we be disturbed by these?