

CHRIST... and His once-only visits

CHRIST... and His once-only visits

One of the intriguing features associated with the Lord's ministry was that He only visited certain places once. He went several times to Bethany and Jerusalem, and His itineraries in Galilee often covered the same ground. Nevertheless, for some inscrutable reason, He only went once to certain villages, but each time this happened, something spectacular took place. We are therefore convinced His actions were deliberately planned.

To reveal a mission (John 4:5)

"Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar. The Lord probably went to that part of the country often, but there is no record that He ever visited the well at Sychar except to encounter a very degraded woman, who was obliged to draw water when other people were absent. To travel during the heat of midday was unthinkable; dogs knew better than to run around at that time of the day. Yet it is written: "And he must needs go through Samaria" (v. 4). It would have been impossible to meet that woman at any other time, unless a visit were made to her house! To do that would have been unwise, for she lived in a place of ill repute. The story of what happened at the well is known universally; there is no need to repeat its details. Early in the Lord's ministry He made it clear that the love of God could not be confined by man-made restrictions. This woman was a Samaritan; she lived among other Samaritans; and, in spite of the denunciations made by the priests, these untouchables were precious in God's sight. This was the purpose of Jesus' mission to earth - to break down the middle wall of partition and to unite all people by His redeeming love. This was revealed for the first time at Sychar's well.

To relieve a mother (Luke 7:1 1)

"And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain. " There is no mention that He ever went to this place on any other occasion. His arrival was -planned to coincide with a funeral coming through the gateway. Had He arrived earlier or later, He would have missed that procession. This was the second time the bereaved mother had lost a loved one. Her heart was sorrowful and her future bleak, for her only breadwinner had been removed by death. She discovered quickly that Jesus understood her deepest anguish; His grace lifted her burdens. It would be very difficult to believe His arrival at that precise moment was a thing of chance!

To remove a mistake (Matt. 15:21)

"Then Jesus went thence, and departed unto the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. " As far as is known, this was a special visit to help a very needy family. A mother, a woman of Canaan, had a daughter who was grievously vexed with a devil. Modern science might describe the girl's condition as being an epileptic but, whatever men decide about her ailment, it remains obvious she needed constant attention. When the news arrived that Jesus was approaching the area, that Gentile woman conceived a plan by which she pretended to be a Jewess. Her confidence was quickly destroyed; but, when she admitted her guilt, the Lord graciously healed her child. Then, apparently, He returned from where He had come. It is unwise to be dogmatic about the exact movements of the Lord, but there is no record that He healed any other, and He didn't preach a sermon. (Compare vv. 28-29.)

To reach a maniac (Luke 8:26)

"And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes. " It is well known and irrefutable that, in close proximity to the land of the Gadarenes, were ten cities known as the Decapolis. However, there

CHRIST... and His once-only visits

is no record to suggest Jesus ever visited that hillside again where, on that memorable day, He delivered a demoniac and saw 2,000 swine perish in the waters below the cliffs. The story is filled with drama, and it is easy to visualize the scene when the light of sanity began to show upon the face of the demoniac. The Lord planned that visit, and at a moment's notice clothed a naked man! There were no stores in the vicinity, so evidently Jesus came fully prepared to meet any emergency that might arise. He knew about that sufferer even before He met him.

To repeat a message (Luke 24:13-15)

"And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus ... and ... Jesus himself drew near, and went with them." Although Emmaus was in close proximity to Jerusalem, there is no record that Jesus had ever been there. When Christ was in the area, He spent much of His time either in the city or in Bethany, yet on this occasion the Lord apparently went out of His way to overtake two of His worried disciples. It would be wonderful if we could know all He uttered on that memorable journey. Doubtless He made the Scripture "come alive" as He expounded from ancient writings the things concerning Himself. What He said and did changed forever the lives of those who traveled with Him. He deliberately repeated what had frequently been uttered; He was alive, and death would never again terrorize His people.

To summarize all five of the preceding incidents, Jesus made special journeys to solve problems. The Bible states He is the same yesterday and today and forever. (See Heb. 13:8.) If He is the unchanging Christ, perhaps today He might make another journey to teach and help us.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.