

28.66 Is Jesus Going to Jerusalem? Discipleship (John 7:1–9; Luke 9:51–62; Matthew 19:1, 2; Mark 10:1)

✓ “Check” it out: opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher, not the student. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and/or visual aids found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check also “Activities” and “Handwork” below for additional suggested items.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *Feast of Booths/of Tabernacles* or *Succoth*: a camping-out festival in tents (tabernacles or booths) for a week in the month that corresponds to our September or October; this festival was to remember that Israel had to live in tents when they left Egypt for the Promised Land.

Scripture: (in chronological order; ESV)

John 7:1 After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him. 2 Now the Jews’ Feast of Booths was at hand. 3 So his brothers said to him, “Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. 4 For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.” 5 For not even his brothers believed in him. 6 Jesus said to them, “My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. 7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil. 8 You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come.” 9 After saying this, he remained in Galilee.

Luke 9:51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. 53 But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” 55 But he turned and rebuked them. [The KJV includes the following: and said, “Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of; 56 For the son of man is not come to destroy men's lives; but to save them”]; And they went on to another village.

Matthew 19:1 Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. 2 And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

Mark 10:1 And he left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them.

Luke 9:57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” 59 To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” 60 And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” 61 Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” 62 Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Introduction/Review:

Continuing the theme of offenses, in our last lesson we learned about a king who forgave his servant a debt worth how many years of labor? [200,000 years.] That servant went out and found a fellow servant who owed him how much? [One hundred days’ worth of labor, which is equal to about one-third year.] When the king learned about the first servant’s harsh treatment of the second servant, what did he do? [What he had first threatened—put him in prison.] How does this story apply to God and His forgiveness? [Jesus paid believers’ debt they could never pay; therefore, they should be willing to forgive offenses against

themselves.] Jesus said to forgive at least how many times? [490 or 70 x 7.]

Story:

Jesus tarried a while in Galilee [locate these places on a map], not wanting to go to Judea because He knew the Jews were seeking to kill Him. Yet, knowing the Feast of Booths was about to take place, He prepared to go to Jerusalem in order to fulfill all the law.

Jesus' brothers

The brothers of Jesus, who still did not believe in Him* (think of that), urged Him to get to Jerusalem, saying, "Leave here and go to Judea so that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. No one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world."

Notice the two *ifs* in their statement: "*If* he seeks to be known openly." Had Jesus ever pushed Himself onto people? That's one evidence for the brothers' unbelief. The second is, "*If* you do these things, show yourself to the world." "*IF you do these things*"?! Does this mean the brothers didn't even believe Jesus had done the fantastic miracles we've been learning about? They certainly seemed to be demeaning Jesus. Talk about sibling rivalry! They definitely demonstrated it.

Jesus didn't take His brothers' advice, but He kindly answered, "My time to go has not yet come. You can go at any time; so go ahead yourselves. I am not going up to this feast just now."**

Jesus further explained, "Your time is always here. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil." So it is today. No one wants to be told they do wrong. In fact, people will hate those who point out evil. We tend not to speak of the evil of this world for fear of being unappreciated. If we are to be like Jesus, we must speak up, let come what may.

✓We assume that at that time the brothers did leave for Jerusalem, but Jesus remained in Galilee for a time.

Jesus' determination to go to Jerusalem

The words, "It came to pass," occur 453 times in the Bible (<http://cog7d.org/And%20It%20Came%20to%20Pass.htm>) and mean that the "days were fulfilled." In this case the days were completed "when the period of time fixed for his being in Galilee was come to an end: when he had fulfilled his ministry, and finished all his sayings, and wrought all the miracles he was to work in those parts; when he was to quit this country, and go into Judea, and up to Jerusalem" (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/luke-9-51.html>)

This passage states, "Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem to be taken up"—✓to be crucified within a few months (Luke 9:51). In dreaded anticipation of suffering for the sins of His people and being separated from His father during that crucifixion, Jesus ✓must have suffered deep soul anguish. Revulsion at the thought of His having to become sin must have required great determination to complete the work for which He had come to this earth; so He "set His face to go to Jerusalem."

Rejection in Samaria

Leaving Galilee, Jesus sent messengers ahead of him to make preparations, ✓perhaps for food or lodging, in a village of Samaria. But the people in that village did not want Jesus. Why? The text states the reason was "because his face was set toward Jerusalem." Remember, Jesus was going to Jerusalem to worship at the Temple. The Samaritans' view of their temple's location versus the Jews' Temple location was the subject of much animosity. ✓Knowing Jesus was going to the Jerusalem Temple might have been just too much for this village to stomach (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/luke-9-53.html>).

James and John were indignant! How could these people reject Jesus so? They asked, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"

Jesus turned and rebuked them, saying, "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of, for the son of man is

not come to destroy men's lives; but to save them.” In other words, He said, “Yours is not the true spirit of zeal, but of anger and revenge. This is not how meek and humble followers of Christ act” (paraphrasing Gill as found at <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/luke-9-55.html>).

So Jesus and His disciples moved on, followed by large crowds. Jesus healed many in the crowds and, as usual, taught them.

Potential disciples

As they were walking along the road, a man said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

Jesus answered, ✓“Are you sure you want to follow Me? Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” We don’t know if that man left Jesus or followed Him. ✓Since the man himself initiated the offer, it seems likely that he went away upon learning of the hardship he might suffer, but we do not know.

Jesus addressed another man, saying, “You follow me.”

This man answered, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” Whether the father had recently died or whether the man wanted to wait until his father died before he followed Christ is not clear.

What is clear and direct is Jesus’ response: “Let the dead bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

So, what does “Let the dead to bury their own dead” mean? Spiritual death is the likely in view: “[L]et such who are dead in trespasses and sins, and to all that is spiritually good, bury those who are dead in a natural or corporal sense. . . . It is plainly suggested, that many of the relations were [spiritually dead]; and there were enough of them to take care of this service: and therefore, there was no need why he should neglect the ministry of the Gospel to attend that” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/matthew-8-22.html>). If Jesus called him, he must follow Christ.

One more man on this journey is mentioned as desiring to follow Christ. He said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.”

Elisha in the Old Testament had asked this same request when Elijah had called him. Elijah granted permission, and when Elisha went back, he not only kissed his mother and father but also slew his oxen and cooked them for his farewell dinner with fire made from the burning of his plowing equipment. He severed all the ties that bound him to his former life and followed Elijah.

However, Jesus seems not to have allowed this man to go back, for He said, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

I have never plowed a field, but I understand that the plowman must keep his eyes looking ahead of him or he will plow a crooked furrow. If a plowman looks back, he isn’t fit to be a plowman. In comparison, a person who states [s]he wants to follow Jesus but looks back longingly to things he is leaving behind is not worthy to be called a disciple. I hope this man followed Jesus, leaving all behind. May you, too, be willing to leave all to follow Jesus.

*“At first they might take to him, and embrace him as the Messiah, and expect he would set up a temporal kingdom; in which they might hope, on account of their relation to him, according to the flesh to enjoy great honours and privileges; but finding that he was not inclined to anything of that nature, and talked in a quite different way, they grew sick of him, and rejected him, as the Messiah; so, little regard is to be had, or confidence placed, in carnal descent from, or alliance to the best of men . . . if they have not the same grace, or the same faith as such have; and which comes not by blood, or natural generation, but by the free favour of God; for it matters not, if men have known Christ, or have been allied to him after the flesh, unless they are new creatures in him” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/john-7-5.html>).

**“[I]n almost all the ancient copies the word is read . . . "I do not go up now to this feast"; that is, just at that very time, that very day or hour: which is entirely consistent with what is afterwards said, for my time is not yet full come; not to die, or to be glorified, but to go up to the feast”
(<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/john-7-8.html>).

Lessons from This Lesson:

- Jesus is God:
He calls people to follow Him (Luke 9:59).
He is worthy to follow (Luke 9:57–62).
- Those who declare this world to be evil are not appreciated. Get used to it.
- Discipleship requires self-sacrifice, but it’s worth it.
- Although Jesus dreaded the events of the future, He determined to do God’s will.

Activities:

- Play dough: foxes; birds; plow
- Play “Follow the Leader.”
- Sing “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.”
- Play act Jesus’ leaving Galilee, being rejected in the Samaritan village, healing, teaching, talking to the three men (“Foxes have holes,” *etc.*, “Let the dead bury the dead,” “Whoever looks back is not worthy”). This activity could be done in conjunction with “Follow the Leader.”
- Review questions: (Game: Make stepping stones out of felt for the flannel board. Have a flannelgraph figure of Jesus. Place the figure of Jesus on the first stepping stone. For each correct answer, move the figure of Jesus to the next stepping stone.)
 1. Why didn’t Jesus go to Judea immediately? [He knew the Jews were seeking to kill Him.]
 2. Which Jewish festival was coming up? [Feast of Booths or Tabernacles.]
 3. How did Jesus’ brothers indicate they didn’t believe in Him? [By saying, “If you seek to be known openly,” and “If you do these things, show yourself to the world.”]
 4. What happened at the village in Samaria that was supposed to be prepared for Jesus? [The people did not accept Him.]
 5. What did James and John want to do to these Samaritan people? [Call down fire to burn them up.]
 6. What two things did Jesus do for the large crowds that followed Him? [Healed; taught.]
 7. What did Jesus say that might have discouraged the first man who said he wanted to follow Jesus? [“Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”]
 8. What did Jesus say to the man He called to follow who wanted to bury his father? [“Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”]
 9. What did Jesus say to the man who wanted to go home first before following Jesus? [“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”]
 10. Which area of Israel/Palestine did Jesus leave, never to return? [Galilee.]

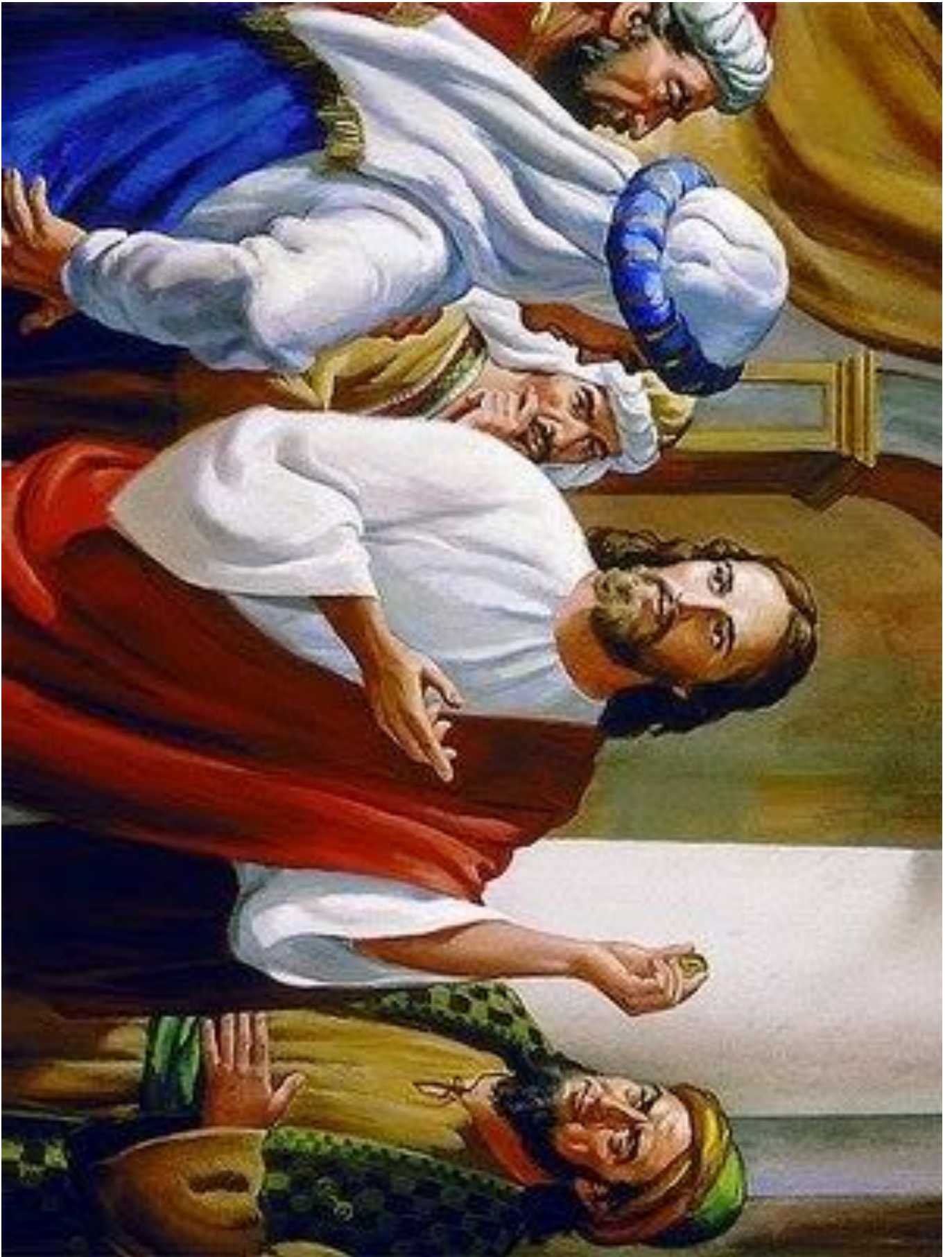
Handwork:

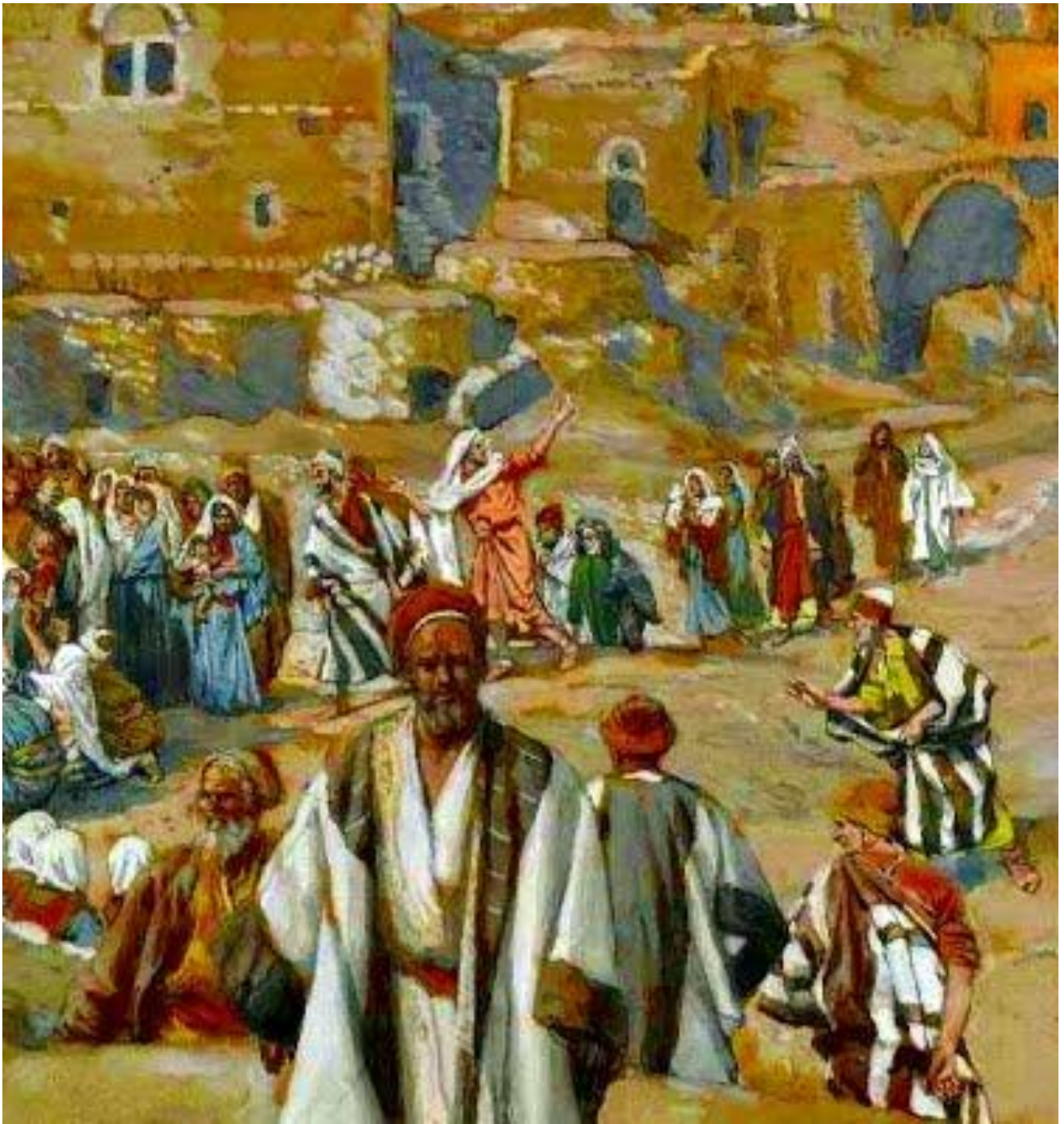
- Do the word search found below. Color the picture.

Memory Verse:

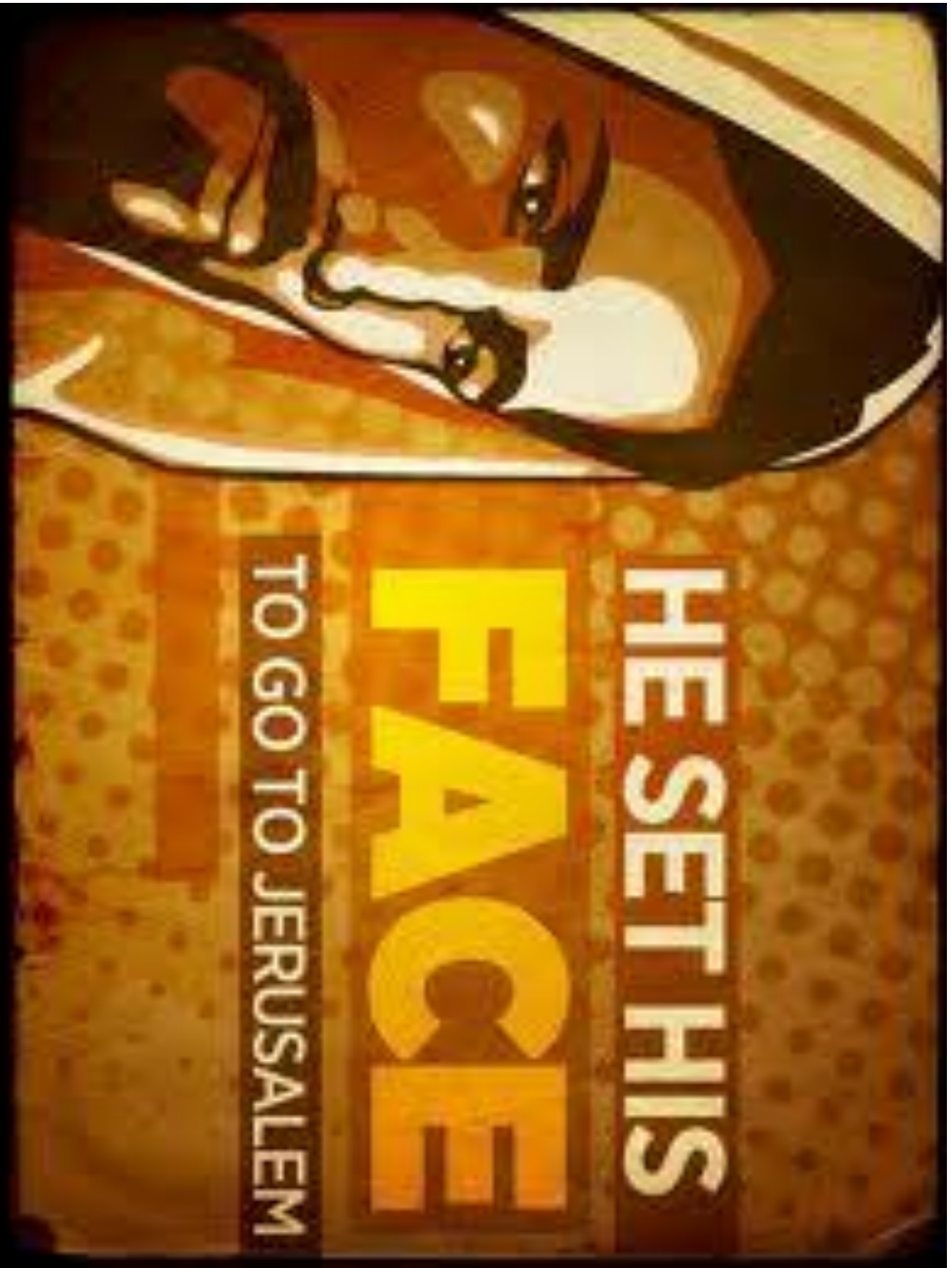
- Luke 9:62—“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Feast of Booths / of Tabernacles / Succoth





<https://sites.google.com/a/desertsunlimitedatonement.com/desert-sun/desert-sun/jesus-earthly-ministry---2nd-year/64---the-journey-through-samaria>



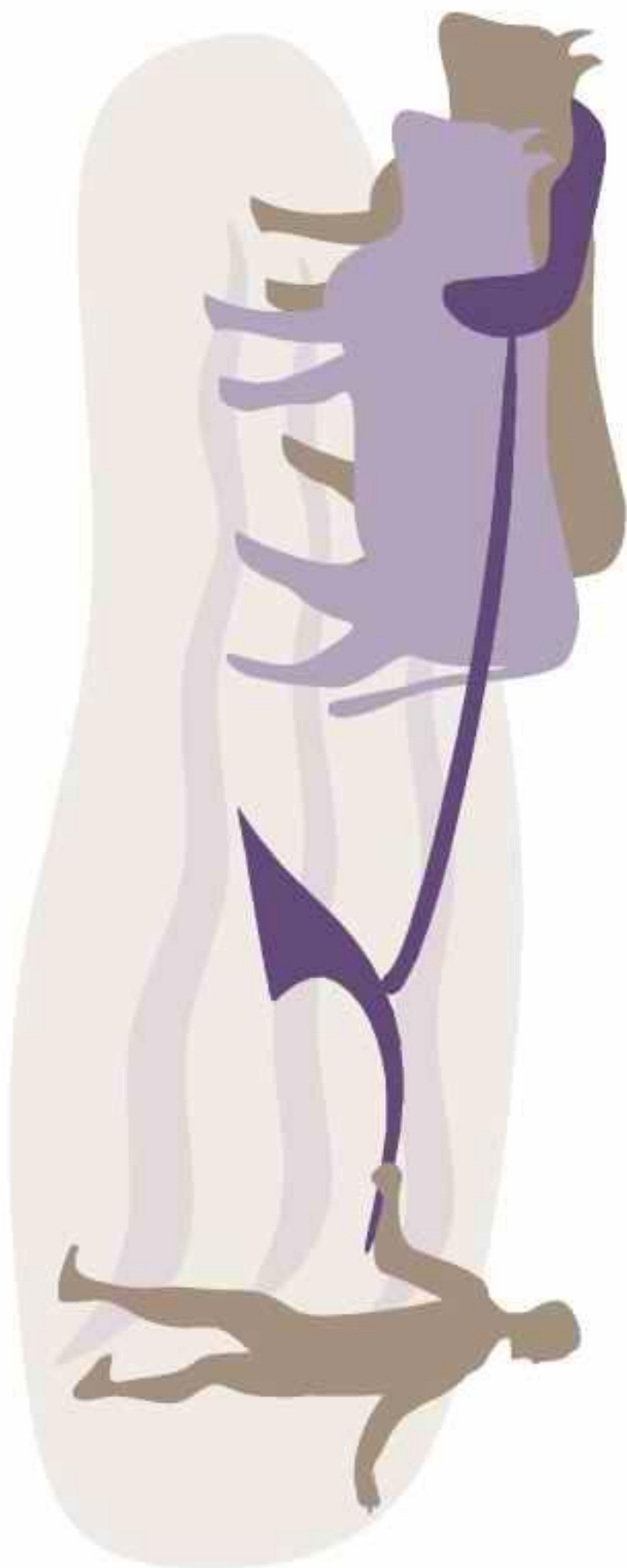
<https://steadfastlutherans.org/2016/06/following-jesus-to-the-cross-sermon-on-luke-951-62-by-pr-charles-henrickson/>





<https://mdc.mo.gov/conmag/2017-04/what%E2%80%99s-nest>





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HEAVEN
DISCIPLES
FOLLOW
NESTS

MESSENGERS
FIRE
FOXES
HAND

SAMARITAN
BURN
BIRDS
PLOUGH

