

St. Luke
Ev. Lutheran Church
Sermon by Pastor
Anthony E. Schultz
3rd Sunday in Lent.
February 28, 2016
Eisenach Series
Luke 9:51-56



⁵¹ As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³ but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?” ⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then he and his disciples went to another village.

People of God – rescued from the flaming lake of fire in hell by the innocent blood of the very Lamb of God:

It’s kind of an interesting question – if you could invite 6 people – living or dead – to dinner tonight – who would you invite? Hum... If you grew up in Illinois like I did – maybe you would say, “Abraham Lincoln!” That would be interesting. Some people say, “Albert Einstein or Thomas Edison or that Stephen Hawking guy!” How about Elvis or Shakespeare? Or maybe sitting here in Church you are thinking – I’d like to have dinner with Moses and Elijah, with Isaiah and Simon Peter and the disciple Jesus loved – and the Apostle Paul! Or maybe you are thinking right to the top. I’d want to have supper with Jesus – and

he would bring any 5 people he wanted with him and that would be perfect! As we catch up in spirit with the Lord Jesus this morning – God’s Word poses the question--

Guess Who’s Coming To Visit!

- 1. Don’t reject the Gospel...**
- 2. Don’t judge your neighbor**

As we walk beside Jesus today – Jesus’ brief 3 year public ministry was fast drawing to a close. Three years – doesn’t seem like a long time. This year we will celebrate Pastor Gartner’s 25th anniversary in the preaching ministry. I’m sure he would tell you the past 25 years have gone by very quickly! Jesus was a Rabbi for 3 years – and according to the plan made before God created the whole Universe it was determined – on a Thursday night Jesus would celebrate Passover with His disciples in an upper room. Then he would go with the disciples to an Olive Garden called Gethsemane – where He would be betrayed by one of the inner circle for 30 silver coins – the price set on Him by His own people! On a Friday morning He would be condemned and by Friday afternoon – nailed to a tree. Friday he would die – His body washed from the blood and sweat and tears – wrapped in strips of cloth with myrrh and aloes about 75 pounds – and placed on a stone platform – a linen towel covering his lifeless face. A stone rolled over the doorway. Come first light Sunday morning an angel would roll back the stone to show that the tomb was empty! All our sins washed away! Everything would happen according to God’s plan of salvation! The Heavenly Father would sacrifice His Son according to His plan – not the murderous plots of cold ♥s and jealous minds.

Today God’s Word says, “**Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.** ⁵² **And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a**

Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³ but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.” Sometimes when we need to do something that’s difficult or painful or just “not fun” we think of all sorts of ways to put it off – to procrastinate! Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. Jesus was very determined to suffer and die to forgive us! He would not be discouraged. Jesus was always thoughtful and careful and organized. So he sent people ahead – to make arrangements for what? For food and for a place to get washed up and to sleep. The next stop would be a Samaritan village. You know what Samaritans are – and so? Because the LORD loved his people – he disciplined them. The LORD loved his people – so when they drifted into sin – the LORD disciplined them. The LORD disciplined them – by means of the army of the Assyrians. Many of God’s people were carried off not just into captivity – but almost into oblivion. The Ten Tribes of the North were dispersed – and I do mean dispersed. Samaritans were descended from the Israelites who were left behind – intermixed and intermarried with foreigners imported by the King of Assyria – to fill this land that was kind of a buffer between Assyria to the north and any army coming from anywhere south. Better to fight off invaders in somebody else’s yard. Let their wheat fields and vineyard get trampled and set on fire. Let their flocks and herds be eaten by an invading army. Let their cities and villages be pillaged and plundered! The children of Israel left behind married and had “hugs and kisses” with all kinds of foreigners – and so people were of family trees part from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and part all kinds of things. That wasn’t the problem as much as their religion became a salad bar of the Law of Moses – and fertility cults and superstitions. When people came back from captivity many years later from Babylon – they came to rebuild

the Temple in Jerusalem. The Samaritans wanted to help. And the Jews said, “Excuse me! You are not pure and faithful enough to help! Thanks, but no thanks!” And so there were hard feelings – prejudice – a kind of racial profiling as it were – so that Jews looked down on and literally physically avoided Samaritans. And Samaritans wanted nothing to do with the Jews either!

⁵¹ As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³ but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.” Samaritans were bitter towards the Jews – and the Jews were bitter towards the Samaritans. Jews and Samaritans looked different on the outside – their skin – their hair – their eyes and nose were different. They wore different clothes – used different words and different expressions. You could tell in a moment if a person was a Jew or a Samaritan. Those people – and so? We call that prejudice – racism – profiling – deciding I don’t like you and I don’t even know you. Do you know how that goes? This is not to mention the fact that this bitterness and judgmental attitude had its roots in hundreds and hundreds of years of hatred? That’s just plain wrong. The only way we get past this attitude of bitterness and anger and hatred toward – fill in the blank. Anger toward people who are the rich 1% or the people who are undocumented aliens from Mexico or Latin America or Europe or Syria or Turkey can only be healed by the Gospel! To fix hearts of bitterness and prejudice hundreds of years old – is to know Jesus would have all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge – a faith in Christ crucified and risen!

⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy

them?" That sounds a little harsh, and so? I mean, where did that come from – fire and brimstone – crashing down out of Heaven – to scorch people off the face of the earth? Yikes! How many of us thought – hey, that sounds a lot like Elijah and Ahaziah! Sound familiar? Probably not – because chances are we haven't read any 2 Kings lately. Again – perhaps instead of spending time hearing people call each other "Liar! Liar!" Instead of worrying about the 3rd week of January in 2017 – let us read our Bible and better understand the LORD – the Great I AM – and how He took care of His people – during times when Kings literally worshiped the lord of the fly – Kings who sought the advice of a god who was where flies gather – where there is death and barn filth! This Lenten time – let us concentrate on the Lamb of God! King Ahaziah – 1 Kings chapter 1. King Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper bedroom and was sick. God's Word says **"he sent messengers, telling them, "Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god (small g) of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this sickness."** But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, **"Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Now therefore thus says the LORD, you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'"** So Elijah went. ...the messengers returned to the King and told him what Elijah said. The King sent a commander and 50 soldiers with him to Elijah who was sitting on the top of a hill and said to him, **O man of God, the king says, 'Come down.'**" But Elijah answered the captain – **"If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your 50. Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.** Being a slow learner the King sent another commander and another 50 men.

Again – Elijah called down fire from heaven – and they too were consumed! Again the King sent another commander with his 50 men. **And the third captain of fifty went up and came and fell on his knees before Elijah and entreated him, O man of God, please let my life, and the life of these fifty servants of yours, be precious in your sight. Behold, the fire came down from heaven and consumed the two former captains of fifty men with their fifties, but now let my life be precious in your sight.”** Then the angel of the LORD said to Elijah, **“Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.”** So he arose and went down with him to the king... So – sending fire down from Heaven – not a new concept. But this was not the time – and this was not the place for God’s judgment to come raining down. Jesus shows mercy to those he will show mercy! **Jesus rebuked** James and John. One of the Greek manuscripts of this part of the Gospel of Luke adds the words **“You do not know what kind of spirit you are of, for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them...”**

⁵⁶ **Then he and his disciples went to another village.** The Samaritans didn’t want to hear God’s Word? Jesus was not going to force them to hear law and gospel. He would not make them listen. Oh, there is always tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow – or is there? I read the other day – a list of inventors – who died – lost their life to their invention. How ironic is that? Mr. Stanley – who with his brother invented the Stanley Motor Carriage Company invented cars that went really fast. Back in 1896 they invented a car that went 127 mph. In 1918 Mr. Stanley was driving very fast – veered to miss some obstacle – it doesn’t even say what it was – hit a pile of wood – overturned – and he died! Invent cars – and die in a car accident. Mr. Rozier invented hot air balloons for people. Somebody else flew a hot air balloon

across the English Channel and suddenly nobody was talking about Mr. Rozier anymore. Don't you hate when that happens? Mr. Rozier flew across the English Channel – and died on the way. Now who's famous? Wm. Bullock invented a faster way to do rotary printing. For printing newspapers – and so? How could that be fatal? Smash your leg in the press – and when gangrene comes – you die in surgery. And finally Alexander – the inventor of blood transfusions. Blood transfusions – a way to achieve eternal youth – or at least partial rejuvenation. Fresh blood – new life – and so? Alexander had 11 transfusions. Alexander said his eye sight was better. He wasn't going bald any more. Then he took blood from a student – oops – a student with malaria and TB. The student recovered – Alexander – not so much! It is tempting to be caught up in this world – to think about being forever young – to be rich and famous – to go real fast. But the one thing needful – is to know Jesus is our Savior and Redeemer. To know Jesus as our best Friend – come into this world to rescue us. To know eternal life for Jesus' sake. And to spend our time here and in heaven saying, "Thank you, Jesus!" Amen!

To God alone all glory!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rev. Anthony P. Schmitt". The signature is written in black ink on a light blue rectangular background.