

Luke 8:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,

Analysis

And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God— Luke emphasizes Jesus' comprehensive itinerant ministry using diodeuen (διοδεύειν, "to journey through") describing systematic travel through urban centers (polin, πόλιν) and rural settlements (kōmēn, κώμην). The dual verbs kēryssōn (κηρύσσων, "preaching/proclaiming") and euangelizomenos (εὐαγγελιζόμενος, "announcing good news") highlight Jesus' prophetic role as herald of divine truth.

The phrase tēn basileian tou Theou (τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ, "the kingdom of God") is Luke's central theological theme—God's sovereign reign breaking into history through Messiah. This wasn't merely ethical teaching but announcement of eschatological fulfillment. **And the twelve were with him** (hoi dōdeka syn autō, οἱ δώδεκα σὺν αὐτῷ) emphasizes apostolic accompaniment. The Twelve weren't passive observers but active learners in Jesus' peripatetic seminary, embodying the rabbinic discipleship model where students absorbed teaching through constant proximity to their master.

Historical Context

First-century rabbinic education emphasized accompanying teachers in daily life rather than formal classroom instruction. Jesus' itinerant ministry pattern followed

prophetic precedent (Elijah, Elisha) while radically expanding accessibility—most rabbis taught in fixed locations, but Jesus brought the kingdom message to remote villages. Galilee contained numerous small towns within walking distance, allowing systematic coverage. This period (likely AD 28-29) represents Jesus' most intensive public ministry phase before opposition intensified. The presence of the Twelve (formally commissioned in Luke 6:13-16) indicates this occurred after their appointment, as Jesus trained them through observation and participation in His ministry.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' systematic evangelization of both cities and villages challenge modern tendencies to focus ministry efforts only on urban centers or only on established congregations?
2. What does the pairing of 'preaching' and 'showing glad tidings' teach about the balance between prophetic proclamation and gospel invitation in Christian ministry?
3. In what ways does Jesus' model of training the Twelve through constant accompaniment rather than mere classroom instruction inform discipleship practices today?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ καθεξῆς καὶ αὐτῷ διώδευεν
And it came to pass afterward And him he went
G2532 G1096 G1722 G3588 G2517 G2532 G846 G1353

κατὰ πόλιν καὶ κώμην κηρύσσων καὶ
throughout every city And village preaching And
G2596 G4172 G2532 G2968 G2784 G2532

εὐαγγελιζόμενος τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ οἱ
shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God And
G2097 G3588 G932 G3588 G2316 G2532 G3588

δώδεκα σὺν αὐτῷ
the twelve were with him
G1427 G4862 G846

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 4:23 (Kingdom): And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

Romans 10:15 (Parallel theme): And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Acts 10:38 (References God): How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Acts 13:32 (Parallel theme): And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,

Mark 1:39 (Parallel theme): And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils.

Matthew 13:19 (Kingdom): When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

Matthew 9:35 (Kingdom): And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Matthew 11:1 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.

Luke 4:18 (Parallel theme): The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,