

Luke 9:52

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him.

Analysis

And sent messengers before his face (ἀπέστειλεν ἀγγέλους, apesteilen angelous)—Luke uses the verb apostellō (to send with authority) and noun angelous (messengers/angels), the same terms used for apostolic commissioning. Even mundane advance work participates in Christ's mission. **And they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans** (Σαμαριτῶν, Samaritōn)—this detail is crucial. Jesus deliberately routes through Samaria en route to Jerusalem, crossing centuries-old ethnic and religious boundaries.

To make ready for him (ἐτοιμάσαι, hetoimasai)—the purpose was practical hospitality, securing lodging and provisions. But symbolically, this preparation foreshadows the gospel's spread to Samaria (Acts 8). Jesus's journey through enemy territory demonstrates the kingdom's boundary-breaking mission. His messengers model the later apostolic pattern: going to unexpected, even hostile places to prepare the way for Christ's presence.

Historical Context

Jews and Samaritans had despised each other for over 700 years since the Assyrian exile and resettlement (2 Kings 17). Samaritans worshiped at Mount Gerizim, not Jerusalem; accepted only the Pentateuch; and were considered ethnically and religiously impure by Jews. Galilean Jews traveling to Jerusalem feasts typically crossed the Jordan to avoid Samaria. Jesus's deliberate choice to

pass through Samaria was culturally provocative and theologically significant—the Messiah came for all.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What modern ethnic, cultural, or denominational 'Samaritans' might Jesus be calling you to enter as His messenger, despite historical animosity or mutual suspicion?
2. How does the detail that even logistical preparation participates in kingdom mission challenge the sacred/secular divide in your understanding of service?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἀπέστειλεν	ἀγγέλους	πρὸ	προσώπου	αὐτῷ·	καὶ
And	sent	messengers	before	face	for him	And
G2532	G649	G32	G4253	G4383	G846	G2532
πορευθέντες	εἰσῆλθον	εἰς	κώμην	Σαμαρειτῶν,	ὥστε	
they went	and entered	into	a village	of the Samaritans	to	
G4198	G1525	G1519	G2968	G4541	G5620	
ἐτοιμάσαι	αὐτῷ·					
make ready	for him					
G2090	G846					

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 10:5 (Parallel theme): These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

Luke 17:16 (Parallel theme): And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

Luke 10:33 (Parallel theme): But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

Luke 10:1 (Parallel theme): After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org