

The Holy Land Season One: God's Heart for His People



Scripture

- **Mark 8:22-25**

And they came to Bethsaida. And they brought a blind man to Jesus and implored Him to touch him. Taking the blind man by the hand, He brought him out of the village; and after spitting on his eyes and laying His hands on him, He asked him, “Do you see anything?” And he looked up and said, “I see men, for I see them like trees, walking around.” Then again He laid His hands on his eyes; and he looked intently and was restored, and began to see everything clearly and He sent him to his home, saying, “Do not even enter the village.”

- **Matthew 23:27**

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under wings, and you were unwilling.”

- **Romans 9:1-5**

I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, and my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

- **Romans 10:1**

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.

- **Romans 11:1**

I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be!

- **Romans 10:14**

How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

Other Scriptures

- Gen. 18:1-2,8

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- Duet. 30:19
- Gen. 4:7
- Matt. 10:15
- 2 Cor. 4:16
- Romans 11:11
- John 8:24
- Romans 11:1, 29

Main Points

- Every day we need to watch our will and discipline ourselves to choose what is right.
- Sin is a real manifestation of darkness in this world.
- The result of cities rejecting Jesus was death and destruction.
- Without a relationship with Jesus, our lives will fall apart.
- God wants it to be our passion to love and reach Jewish people.
- Paul wrote the book of Romans with the salvation of the Jewish people on his heart.
- God has a special call on the nation of Israel.
- It is important to stand for Israel because God is still in covenant with them.
- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

Discussion Questions

1. What is the visual lesson of the city of Bethsaida the Rabbi referred too?
How striking is it that this city was the birth place of Peter, Andrew, James, John and Phillip, as well as the setting for the miracle of the feeding of the 5000? Jesus compared it as more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah than Bethsaida because Bethsaida rejected Jesus.

2. How should we appropriate this in our lives? What happens if we abandon our relationship with Him? Are you drawing from the well of relationship with Jesus on a daily basis? What is hindering you from you it? What can you do to remove those hindrances?

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3. How did Paul show God's heart and his own heart toward the salvation of the people of Israel? (Romans 9-11) Has God rejected Jewish people because of their unbelief? Has He replaced them with the Church?

4. Are you showing love and support for Israel? What are some things you are doing to show your love and support? Your support of Discovering the Jewish Jesus is one way you do that.

Consider the two sides of the coin the Rabbi talked about. First, God is using we who are Gentiles to spur His people the Jews on to salvation, through jealousy. Secondly, that we are in no way behind the Jews, in embracing the Gospel which all must do to inherit eternal life. Do you find your love for Israel growing as you consider God's love for His people.