



Soul Harvest

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Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

As : (Adverb) a word or phrase that modifies or qualifies an adjective, verb, or other adverb or word group. Jesus Christ our Lord now informs that we must not only Believe in Him but be like Him in action & deed.

As in we are to be His adverbs.

As we meet once again dear Bible studying friends we have reached another remarkable junction upon our Lord's "Way," in order for Him to Save, those who were once lost but are now found by the power of His cross. So purely Loving and yet eternally profound.

As the Apostles & Believers, the Disciple's of our Christ Jesus do approach the autumn of His 2nd year of public ministry, Jesus now asserts His ultimate narrative as His imperative this being from not only believing and then receiving Him as Savior, to now also issuing that those who belong to Him must also labor at His employ.

As for the sharing of His Word & Will with us offering Jesus unto others so that they too may also believe and then receive Christ's Gospel of Grace only found by the planting of His seed of Faith.

Being such as our Lord now employs us, we too are going to use something here within this lesson that helps convey our Christ's Loving Grace by Faith.

Within many of the previous lessons you may have already noticed that the particulars of all the corresponding Gospel accounts of a said event in our Christ's human life- when they are compiled and compared do collectively share an astonishing amount of detail.

On this thought our lesson here will likewise employ a Biblical study resource from Biblehub.com called the "interwoven" Gospels. This is a remarkable tool used for the grasping of the totality of the Gospels.

Matthew 9:35 - 10:1 ~ Mark 6:6-13 ~ Luke 9:1-6

✝ Then saith He to His disciples, "The harvest, indeed, is abundant, but the laborers few: pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that He send forth laborers into His harvest."

First our Lord states laborers for a Spiritual Harvest are needed then He assigns His Apostles to reap what He has sown.

✝ Then He called together His twelve disciples to Him, and gave them power and authority over all demons, unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity; and began to send them forth two by two, to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Imagine it! The hand chosen appointed Apostles of Christ were now commissioned by Jesus using His power and authority to not only teach & preach, but to now also heal & to command evil to flee from those possessed like a Spiritual disease. All 12 of the original Apostles.

As in healing sickness, cleansing disease, restoring physical health and giving Spiritual hope to all while also giving the Gospel good news that the Kingdom of GOD was at hand.

The Jews knew this phrase meant that the Messiah was near as in being here- Jesus!

Get that?

Jesus Himself was under criminal watch and in danger of a stoning well before His Scriptural predicted time of crucifixion for the legal charge of sorcery, that is if He publicly proclaimed Himself to be the Christ.

So, Christ our Lord sends out His Apostles to do this for Him- proclaiming the Kingdom of GOD. Performing signs and wonders along with Jesus's Gospel good news. This not only served as a training for the Apostles as for future Ministry, but through them even from afar this demonstrated Christ our Lord's power and authority with the Divine supernatural miracles as evidence of Jesus's Word & Deity. Is that not the very definition of a scientific fact? That something must be replicable to be verifiable. Of course, debate ensues and ever follows when the miraculous concerning Jesus Christ is mentioned. Meaning it has been argued down through the centuries that this imparting of Jesus's authority was only temporarily assigned to these 12 Apostles for this specifically limited timeframe.

While legend holds that the Revelating Apostle John at the end of his days nearly 100 years old while living out his final years in Ephesus where he first composed and had distributed the Gospel of John, and published the book of Revelation- that John raised a man from the dead by the authority of Jesus Christ.

So, I do submit here that also including Acts chapter 3 as for the example of Peter healing an adult man also in the name of Jesus who was publicly known as lame from birth and likewise Acts 20 when a young man named Eutychus literally fell asleep listening to the Apostle Paul preach when the young man while sitting perched on an upper floor windowsill dozed and fell to his death. Of course, we know he was then revived alive by Saul/Paul in the name of Jesus.

These events do prove otherwise. (Apostles empowered) Especially Saul/Paul who was not even yet at this time even counted amongst the Apostles of Christ. It will be what? nearly 2 years later until after His personal conversion by Jesus with Saul becoming Paul while journeying to Damascus Syria to persecute the fleeing church.

These events like the miracles of Jesus are undisputed & undenied by the enemies of Christ even unto this day. Meaning Jesus clearly imparted His authority with a measure of His power unto His Apostles.

Just a thought; does this not make it even harder for us to comprehend that ultimately Judas Iscariot included here amongst the original 12, will ultimately by his own selfishness and opinions reject the Gospel peaceful plan of the Great I AM. Yes, meaning even Judas could teach & preach, heal & serve.

If Judas could not- then the Gospels otherwise would have recorded Iscariot's inability as a precursor of warning that they being the other 11 should have known and picked up on of Judas's future betrayal.

Moving on, Jesus now gives out very specific instructions to the 12 Apostles for their traveling Ministry:

Continuing

✠ And He charged the twelve, saying : "Go not into any way of the Gentiles and enter not into any city of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

What we miss here in a different language from a different place and time is that during Jesus Time- this statement had a specific meaning. Jesus was sending His Apostles out into the remote areas of Galilee.

The "Amhaarez" (rural people collective of the land) were regarded with outright contempt by the Pharisee's. This was from the University level in Jerusalem all the way down unto every byway village and remote town. Even Hillel one of the greatest teaching rabbis of all time within Aboth 2:6 a Mishna oral tradition commentary is recorded as saying no "ha arec" (country person) is religious.

Where as opposingly Christ our Lord is being deliberately sure to present His Gospel Kingdom carefully unto all the remote people of Jewish Galilee aka at that time as the unshepherded "lost sheep" of Israel.

Notice to the remote Galileans alone and not into any of the surrounding Gentile or the Samaritan areas.

Obviously Jesus has trained His Apostles and now He is dispatching them to the far away places amongst Galilee's vast open spaces to gather those together that Jesus simply cannot reach to preach and teach personally within His GOD given allotted timeframe. (Daniel 9 predicted to the very day for being cut off/sacrificed)

Again, as for the half Jewish areas of Samaria, a hatred and resentment has endured ever since the Assyrians conquered the Samaritan areas & dumped their criminals along with other pagan Gentile malcontents into Samaria in 722 BC . (2 Kings)

Thusly in the eyes of pure Israel this immediately turned any Tribe or Jew from this area reprobate. In fact, at this early date of what we call the Old Testament which was not as of yet even complete, as such any God-fearing Samaritan only had the original five books of Moses called the "Pentateuch" which literally means "five books" as their only source of worship, instruction, and praise of GOD. The Samaritan peoples have many times requested copies of the completed Torah Old Testament & for even proper teachers from Israel to instruct them with what they lacked. Israel has continually refused.

Continuing

✠ And as ye go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven hath come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons; freely ye have received, freely give.

This means the means for Jesus's Ministry being collected are one thing, but for someone to greatly personally profit off of GOD's Word and our Christ's commission is strictly prohibited. Also, here we have a classic textbook example of different peoples given different promises from GOD at different times and places based upon their and His specific need and situations.

Get that?

The "Kingdom of GOD" has a slightly different meaning unto the Jews than it does for us Christians. As Christians we tend to think of our Heavenly Fathers "Thy Kingdom Come" as Heavenly exclusive. But remember the Jewish people were commissioned by GOD first in order to fill our GOD'S coming Kingdom with redeemed Spiritually reborn peoples. (Fallen sinners of Adam & Eve's lineage)

What we are missing here is over time the Jews were resisted & reviled for being GOD'S representatives being outright lied & denied upon even racist agendas were generation by generation applied against the Jewish people. Initially this was done by the other half sematic tribes simply in jealousy of not being selected by Heavenly Father to be the worlds clergy.

Of course, even to this day, satan only stokes the fires of hate and prejudice particularly against Israel. Deep down a resistance and hatred of the Jews and now by extension Christians, is demonstrative of resistance and outright rebellion against GOD and His authoritative Word. So, what does this mean?

Israel was given Biblical assurance with the Blessing that indeed their Messiah likewise our Gentile Saving Christ, shall indeed be of King David's seed and be King in Jerusalem (Earth) for 1000 years. "Then every knee shall bow, and every tongue will confess that Messiah Christ (Jesus) is indeed the (Divine human) Lord of Lords & King of Kings." (Philippians 2:10-11)

What we call the "Millennial Kingdom" rein of Christ, is each a honeymoon period for Jesus and His Bride- us His Church, then after the "marriage supper of the lamb" in Heaven, His and our subsequent immediate return to the Earth thusly fulfilling each our Lord's Prayer & GODLY O.T. promises given to the Jewish people of Israel. (Rev. 19-20)

All Scripture does interweave and complete within the book of Revelation including the conclusion of multiple timelines with the promises of GOD unto all of His people down through the Ages plural.

These different Ages; Thy Millennial Kingdom to Come plus the Creation Adamic, Abrahamic, Mosaic Law, & our Christ's Grace, each were unique, binding, & specific. After these is when eternity begins.

However, all requiring Faith of Belief that GOD shall or did send His redeeming Messiah/Savior.

Meaning wherever you were born in history, you either in Faith looked forward to Messiah or back to His Saving Cross. Faith in GOD'S Messiah tis ever & always the same.

The qualifying for "Thy Kingdom Come" was at hand through Him, Christ our Lord with His supernatural miracles now also demonstrated by His Apostles whom Jesus tasked to do so on His behalf as proof.

Discomfort of heat/cold and thirst/ hunger was to be theirs, because suffering weeds out & focus's character.

✝ Take nothing for the journey. Provide no money: neither gold, nor silver, nor brass, in your belts; nor staff, except one staff only; nor shoes, but be shod with sandals; no provision wallet nor bread, for the laborer is worthy of his food; and put not on two coats.

Jesus instructed His 12 to proceed as His "Emissaries," in this case ordained and empowered by Christ & tasked with the mission of Spiritually harvesting people while leaving with only what they were wearing. By taking no provision this meant to be fully dependent upon the Lord for the providing of their needs as in their personally Christ assigned Ministry was each their employ and resource by for in & of the Lord. This can be a tough assignment for anyone- to learn to be content. In doing the Lord's work with just a daily portion supplied by Divine Providence. Originally & Traditionally Ministry work was not for financial gain, but for the Love of Christ. While having a Heavenly reward in store for those who sacrifice so much while having a loving custodial care of Jesus's Salvation for others represented & presented through them. Also, it is a must that a servant of Christ trusts that GOD will provide for their means & Ministry need. Notice Jesus said those doing His work are worthy of being supported by those being Blessed by them. By Roman Law a laborer (slave) were required to be fed by their masters, while the Jews had no such law meaning even the violent pagan Romans treated their servants better than the elite Jews did.

Ok, what we miss here is this: No gold, no silver, no brass as money script in your belts, only one coat not two, no shoes but only sandals because shoes made of animal leather were not permissible in Temple. In fact, even sandals were removed as to not track any dirt into the Temple, 1 walking staff which of course doubled as a self defense protection device against thieves or bandits & of course no prepared provisions. Traveling in such conditions in of itself demonstrated a 3-fold example of one's lack of anything valuable enough to warrant taking forcibly. While this also reminded the Apostle that this journey was to be brief (life is short do not worry about wealth) and again for them to be dependent upon the Lord.

"A laborer deserves his food" was in Jesus Time a Mishna commentary Aboth 4:5 upon an oral tradition. Meaning the Jewish people had been hearing this saying from a very young age that the one who labors for the people deserve to be supported by the very same people. (I.e. GOD/Master providing for His servants) Also, these instructions of taking nothing with them were exactly the very same Pharisaical requirements of entering the Temple in Jerusalem. Meaning there was already a cultural understanding of a Holy mission built into this style of travel given by Jesus unto His Apostles.

As in when people went into the Temple, they only had exactly what they needed to Tithe & Offer. Meaning no excess to worry about nor any extra for them to stop & think of bartering at the shops and bazars. This could be done at any other time than attending Temple with the thought being one was focused upon the Lord.

Continuing

✝ And into whatsoever city or village ye enter, inquire who in it is worthy. And into whatsoever house ye enter, there abide until ye depart.

Worthy implies those of good reputation and receptive to the Lord & not just by appearances nor preconceived impressions of good or bad people. Jesus Himself was accused over and over again of fraternizing with unclean sinners. This He did righteously do, He did not participate in their Sin- but offered His Loving Grace to everyone free of charge save for their Faith.

Remember these rural people as a whole, who Jesus is sending all of His 12 to Minister to, are already considered to be irreverent just by their location alone by the Pharisee's. Because truthfully no Pharisee wished to be consigned to the sticks where low profit, nor any prestige was to be found there.

Jesus did require that once hospitality was offered and taken, that His servants were to remain and abide their full time as for not causing any controversy thusly detracting or distracting from His mission.

Continuing

✠ But when ye enter into the house, salute it. And if, indeed, the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whosoever, or whatsoever place will not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye go forth out of that house or that city, shake off the dust that is under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of Judgment, than for that city.

The Apostles were instructed as they entered a town to inquire who is worthy?

As in to seek the hospitality of those whomever were locally predisposed with a reputation for serving the Lord. In return for those who assisted the Apostles in Jesus Ministry, our Lord's peace meaning His very presence would also abide in this house even after the departure of His Apostles.

Of course, this dignifies the realization that it is always a privilege to assist those in service to Christ.

Not being worthy would be someone with a GODLY appearance but having selfish secret motivations while only seeking additional respect and or position with unearned gain.

As in their hospitality is actually intended for them and not for others in Christ.

In Judaism during Jesus Time shaking the dust off of one's feet was a physical demonstration of bearing testimony against someone who has rejected a righteous truth. Often for the Jews this historically was followed with the cessation of fellowship even the shunning of a dismissive person while also then with them becoming personally accountable to GOD for the Sin of dismissing Him.

Future example of this by the Apostle Paul

✠ But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. ⁶ But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood is on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." Acts 18:5-6 NASB

Jesus knew His Apostles would understand this culture reference of shaking the dust off oneself and moving forward and is a stark reminder of the consequences of when someone individually or even someplace collectively rejects the message of Jesus. Meaning eternal Judgement is automatic by those who reject Christ our Lord's affection.

This be Why? I often feel a measure of remorse and trepidation when offering GOD'S Word of Grace to someone and they dismiss it. I realize that they are literally playing with the eternal fires of damnation.

Yes, the messenger themselves may feel they have failed or that they personally have been rejected but in actually it is GOD Himself through Christ our Lord who is being represented by us that has in fact been rejected. We are all simply the good will ambassadors of Christ having done his or her part.

Notice that Jesus instructed His 12 Apostles not to be discouraged when they are rejected but to simply move on and to offer His Gospel to someone else.

While of course Sodom & Gomorrah were historical cities Biblically punished for vile sexual Sin with violence and total rebellion against GOD and those who honored Him. (Genesis 18-19) Here Jesus says physical, or even emotional, or intellectual Sin will be lessor in punishment than Spiritual Sin before GOD.

Jesus should know He is the Divine judge of all:

✠ Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. John 5:22-24 NIV

Continuing

✠ Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye, therefore, wise as serpents and blameless as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to councils, and in their synagogues they will scourge you. And before governors also and kings ye shall be brought on My account, for a testimony to them and to the nations. (Jesus Himself will have 6 illegal trials 3 civil & 3 religious)

Jesus knowing the future teaches us that each the world and satan will use authorities to persecute His believers in an effort to hinder and dissuade Christ's Grace by Faith. The Jewish Midrash commentary commonly quotes that Israel was awaiting her shepherd amongst the wolves of the world. Israel was also referred to as a gentle dove amongst the serpents of the world, so Jesus "the good Shepherd" was teaching His Apostles they His sheep actually were the wise and gentle doves of Israel taught about in Synagogue.

Continuing

✠ But when they deliver you up, be not anxious how or what you shall speak; for it will be given you in that hour what ye shall speak, for it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father that speaketh in you. But brother shall deliver up his brother to death, and father his child; and children shall rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated by all for My name's sake; but he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved. But when they persecute you in this city, flee into the next; for verily I say to you, ye shall not have gone through the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

Ok, there is a lot going on here with all of this being future tense with some of these verses not only future for Christ and His Apostles in Jesus Time, but also for Israel as in Faithful Christian Jewish believers in an as of a yet future time for us.

Yes, these verses of Faith that opposition & persecution of our Faith in Jesus can and will divide even nations and families. These Words are useful for us the Church, but they are for future Israel as well. But first things first; Jesus instructs us as His ambassadors we are not to worry about what we might say including in Apologetic (evidence of Christ) or Evangelistic (Gospel good news) Ministries unto others.

Especially unto powerful people in some fashion of authority because the Holy Spirit within us will in fact guide the person in Christ knowing what to say to the person or people you may be speaking to.

The Holy Spirit knows what you do not know- their reasons, objections, cunning, or circumstances.

This does not mean that we are not to study GOD'S Word and Pray for His guidance with each our words and recall of what we know Biblically when speaking to someone.

In fact, it is by GOD'S Word that the Lord speaks through us. Pray that we recall when and what we need to, and that we then allow the Holy Spirit to lead the conversations with His Heavenly insights.

Jesus promises us a Heavenly reward is in store for those facing criticism for Him

✠ Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:11-12 ESV

Now getting back to these Biblical statements that Faith in Jesus will divide families even unto betraying someone to death by using Earthly authorities against a person believing in Jesus.

Did not the Pharisee's & ultimately Rome before Constantine persecute and murder Christians?

Of these 12 Apostles only John the Revelator will die of elderly natural causes.

Even John was exiled to Patmos after Rome had tried & failed to give him a torturous death. (boiled in oil)

Did not also the Roman Catholic Church brutally convict and murder any believer in Christ who disputed the Holy See's manmade traditions and superstitions they have added upon GOD'S Word to each empower and enrich Rome? Likewise, even today within the sharia Muslim world the sentence is death for a Moslem to convert to Christianity.

Moving on, as for Jesus once again referring to Himself as "The Son of man." (Ben-Adam in Hebrew) The Holy Scriptures particularly the prophetic books within the Old Testament at various times does call Elijah the Prophet and others as a son of man. (humankind)

This is a term often expressed by GOD when addressing an individual as their owner and Creator. Similarly to someone calling their owned pet as dog, fish, cat, or bird etc. when speaking to them. Simply put; GOD was asserting His authority while just making it plain to whom He was speaking to. Likewise, when Jesus the Living Word the second person of the Trinity was born human as The perfect man. He quite often referred to Himself as The Son of man. (Divinely human) Which also identifies Him as The Christ/Messiah if you understand Jewish connotations.

Continuing

✝ A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. It is sufficient for the disciple that he become as his teacher, and the slave as his master. If they called the Master of the house Beelzebub, how much more those of His household! Fear them not therefore; for there is nothing covered that shall not be uncovered, and secret that shall not be known. What I say to you in privacy, speak in public; and what ye hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And be not afraid of those that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but fear Him rather Who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (Beelzebub means Lord of flies an insult to Jesus)

Christ our Lord goes into further detail here with the reminding of His Apostles specifically that the Pharisee's not only resisted Jesus, but they actually accused Him of being evil & in league with satan. Meaning those following Christ Jesus should expect no less from those threatened by GOD'S Truth.

Because this verse below each terrifies & vilifies those wishing to hold Spiritual authority over others:

✝ I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6 NIV

Jesus then makes it plain that what He is teaching His Apostles privately is for them to proclaim publicly from the housetops which were flat patiolike structures in Jesus Time meaning it was easy for neighbors to see and greet each other. While further that the behind-the-scenes schemes as in the evil plans of evil people will indeed be made open scandal and public knowledge in the Kingdom Age to Come.

So consequently, our Lord informs that those working for Him should not fear people but GOD.

Continuing

✝ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them shall fall to the ground without your Father's consent. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; ye are of more value than many sparrows. Every one, therefore, who shall confess Me before men, I also will confess him before My Father Who is in heaven; but whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father Who is in heaven.

Ok, sparrows were sold in the Temple area and were considered to be the very rock-bottom basic animals that could be purchased for sacrificial service. Likewise, a penny was one of the lowest Roman coins that could be used, and a lowly single penny would buy not one but two sparrows on the Temple mount. Even with their over exaggerated prices.

Jesus is implying here that GOD is sovereign, and He cares about what people may consider to be the least of persons or events.

So, because GOD does care even over the least of significant things this also proves GOD cares about you. Jesus tells us even the hairs of our head are numbered.

Has not science now proven this to be true? (very hairs are numbered)

The DNA of what makes you, you- is a biological mathematical digital code.

Did you ever notice this question within the scientific community is always sidestepped, ignored, or conveniently forgotten that a code necessarily implies a creating author as in a code writer?

Now as for “whoever denies me before men I will deny before my Father.” (Matthew 10:33)

Many have mistakenly thought it would be so easy to get a Christian to deny their Faith in Jesus especially to spare oneself of pain or shame.

For three hundred plus years the Roman persecutors in a practice known as “penna” as in a penny, would impoverish or do even worse to a suspected Christian. (murdered/tortured for sport)

Those who turned in a Christian then received 10% of their wealth while the rest went to the state.

Likewise, down through the centuries some tyrant or corrupted organization often a Godless government, one after another have been astonished that for Christians- even while under the direct threat of a torturous death, their normal behavior was/is to accept that fate rather than to publicly deny Jesus as their Christ.

We could spend an hour here explaining this, but the simple truth is believers in Jesus' respect and have a reverence for GOD more than being afraid of humankind.

Jesus explains this further at another time & place.

✝ I tell you the truth, everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, the Son of Man will also acknowledge in the presence of God's angels. ⁹ But anyone who denies me here on earth will be denied before God's angels.

Dr. Luke 12:8-10 NLT

✝ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

Dr. Luke 9:26 RSV

Continuing

✝ Do not think that I came to bring peace upon the earth: I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to set at variance a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law: and a man's foes shall be his own household. "He that loveth father or mother more than Me, is not worthy of Me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me, is not worthy of Me: and he that doth not take his cross and follow after Me, is not worthy of Me.

Notice now at the zenith of Christ's popularity He is now starting to include what is required of us. Christ says that those who do not help carry the burden of His Ministry are unworthy of Him. There are many ways to help Jesus with His one and only “Way,” so find your way to help!

The point of this life is Faith in Jesus Christ, not our temporary comfort or gain but that God comes 1st! Remember Abraham had to leave his fathers house. Meaning he had to obey and put GOD 1st! While later to protect GOD'S chosen line, he had to send his first born son Ishmael away. GOD 1st! Later Abraham had enough Faith in GOD'S promises, Faith enough in GOD'S Word, to be willingly to sacrifice his son of promise Issac before GOD. GOD 1st!

So, GOD spared Issac when Abraham demonstrated his Faith that GOD could resurrect Him, yet 2000 years later on this same exact spot GOD did not spare His Son for us and did resurrect Him. Meaning we are to put GOD 1st because He- all 3, Father~ Son ~ Holy Spirit already in plan & action put us 1st Abraham exemplifies what this Biblical directive again reenforced here by Jesus that He- the Lord, is to come 1st The easiest "Way" to understand this is to realize that GOD created all and our personal relationship with Him takes precedent above all others.

Be it parent, sibling, spouse, child, or grand child. (Created them as well)

Yes, this can be quite heavy and hard to accept until a person understands if everyone put GOD 1st - Then everything and everyone else would fall in line correctly in Jesus Time.

Get that? Jesus regarded His truth as more important than temporary harmony with friends or family. If everyone honored the Lord above all else, GOD 1st then our love and respect for each other, as in all others would always be there. Not only natural family affection but ever enduring Heavenly Love.

Think about it in this "Way." GOD Himself "gave His one and only begotten Son" for everyone. Heavenly Father did not hold back, He gave a very part of Himself first so that we could be 1st

Jesus IS the sword the living Word of GOD, see John chapter 1 and here below:

✝ For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing *and* sifting *and* analyzing *and* judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart. ¹³ And not a creature exists that is concealed from His sight, but all things are open *and* exposed, naked *and* defenseless to the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do. Hebrews 4:12-13 AMP Classic

Continuing

✝ He that findeth his life, shall lose it; and he that loseth his life for My sake, shall find it. He that receiveth you, receiveth Me; and he that receiveth Me, receiveth Him Who sent Me. He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet, shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous- man, shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whosoever shall give to drink to one of these little ones a cup of cold water only, in the name of a disciple, verily I say to you, he shall not lose his reward."

In the simplest terms when we live only for ourselves or in modern terms "find ourselves" not so modern when you read Jesus described it as such over 2 millennia ago, that when a person lives for themselves apart from GOD- literally when they die they go to hell and are forgotten forever. But whenever someone puts GOD 1st giving up self pleasures and pursuits for Jesus our Christ, we are guaranteed eternity in Heavenly paradise. Christ arising from the dead & our indwelling Spirit proves this to be true. Likewise Jesus is deliberately sure here to detail that anything anyone does for Him especially for others with the pattern of Christ's Love on their heart as to the reason Why? they live & do such things. Tis certainly noticed and rewarded in Heaven by Jesus. Not that the Christ bearer even thinks of such things but Jesus does notice when we put GOD 1st!

At this same time- while His Apostles traveled ahead of Jesus, Christ our Lord again for the second time during His public Ministry returned to His hometown of Nazareth.

It had now been 9-10 months since Jesus's last visit to Nazareth which had ended so disastrously even with the local Synagogue official trying to have Jesus tossed off the top of a cliff in Nazareth for the charge of blasphemy. Because Jesus had correctly claimed to have personally fulfilled the Prophet Isaiah's chapter 61 scriptures of the coming of Messiah. (Dr. Luke 4:16-30)

Again, a chilly reception awaited Jesus at home especially when He correctly answered all of the Biblical questions they submitted each posed and opposed to Him.

In fact, the local response was; "is this not Joseph the carpenter's son?" "whose family; His brothers and sisters are yet here?"

Insinuating who does He think He is?! (not born a pharisee, not even a student of a pharisee)

Conclusion

✝ Jesus left that part of the country and returned with his disciples (not Apostles) to Nazareth, his hometown. ² The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked, "Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?" ³ Then they scoffed, "He's just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us." They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him. ⁴ Then Jesus told them, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family." ⁵ And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Mark 6:1-6 NLT

Jesus was amazed at the coldness and unwillingness in Nazareth to accept and believe in Him. Actually, the Jews of Nazareth marveled and wondered just how did Jesus know what He knew? Meaning Why? don't we know.

They wondered; we are from the same area, how, when, & where did Jesus get this Knowledge? Instead of being won over by Christ's answers, but because they were familiar with Jesus.

They jealously held Him in contempt.

This implies that Jesus had not previously demonstrated at least publicly His knowledge and comprehension of the scriptures.

Certainly, this was by Divine design until Christ our Lords prophetic appointed time.

Get that? Jesus knowing who He was, yet He had kept His peace until:

At the proper Temple service age of 30 for a rabbi and then after being anointed/baptized by John the Baptist. The last official Old Testament style Prophet for Israel who promptly & properly announced the arrival of GOD'S Messiah-Jesus, as the one and only Christ!

Further, what is easily overlooked here is that the actual timing of Jesus, as in His birth and later public commission by John the Baptist at Christ's correct age, were all in perfect Prophetic alignment of Daniel chapter 9.

Which describes the exact number of calendar days the Messianic timeline of Israel was to be, which were fulfilled perfectly by Jesus.

Meaning who among us can determine when & where we will be born, and who are our parents & grandparents are going to be going all the "Way" back for dozens of generations on both sides of our family tree. Jesus did. Yes! That is what it means to be born Biblically Messiah!!