

Class 7

PREACHING THE RULE OF GOD

Outline

- Dig Team Projects: Capernaum and Bethsaida
- How did Jesus teach?
- How to determine what Jesus taught
- Jesus' Core Message: The Rule of God
 - Why we think it's historical
 - Political significance

Dig Team Projects

- Capernaum
- Bethsaida

HOW DID JESUS TEACH?

Jesus' Teaching Style

Conventions of oral preaching

- Short, pithy sayings = "aphorisms"
- Short riddle-stories = "parables"
- Images & metaphors from daily life
- Rhythm and rhyme

How to Determine What Jesus Taught

<i>Criteria of Historicity</i>	
early eyewitness	
embarrassing	
multiply attested	
discontinuous with Jewish or Christian ideas	
oral character or form	

Luke 11:17-20
[Jesus exorcises a demon, and people question whether it is Satan who has given him the power to do it. Jesus responds]

Every kingdom divided against itself becomes a desert, and house falls on house. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? — for you say that I cast out the demons by Beelzebul. Now if I cast out the demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

parallels in Mark 3:24-26, Matt 12:25-28

How to Determine What Jesus Taught

*Criteria of
Historicity*

- early/eyewitness
- embarrassing
- multiply attested
- discontinuous with Jewish or Christian ideas
- oral character or form

Luke 16:13

"No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

parallels in Matt 6:24; Gos. Thomas 47:1-2

How to Determine What Jesus Taught

*Criteria of
Historicity*

- early/eyewitness
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Luke 14:28-30

[Jesus addressing disciples] "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' "

How to Determine What Jesus Taught

*Criteria of
Historicity*

- early/eyewitness
- embarrassing
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The Temptation Scene

Jesus' Message: The Rule of God

- Why we think that message is historical
 - It's early (Q, Mark)
 - It's embarrassing (did God's rule arrive?)
 - It's multiply attested
 - in various sources
 - In various "forms" or types of material (parables, beatitudes, aphorisms, passion narrative)
 - It's therefore expressed in those early oral forms
 - It explains why Jesus was crucified

Jesus' Message: The Rule of God

- This rule is based on earlier Jewish visions of God's rule
 - though it expands table fellowship to include others
 - tax collectors
 - sinners
 - and is not as "fire and brimstone" as John the Baptist's message
- But it's also articulated against Rome's political theology
 - *Abba* ("father") counters *pater patriae*
 - *Soter* (savior) used of Jesus counters emperor's title
 - *Euangelion* (gospel) was emperor's term for his announcements
 - *Basilea tou theo* (kingdom of God) counters kingdom of Rome
 - Twelve: judges for Israel
