

FAITH BUILDERS

CONFRONTING UNBELIEF AND THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS

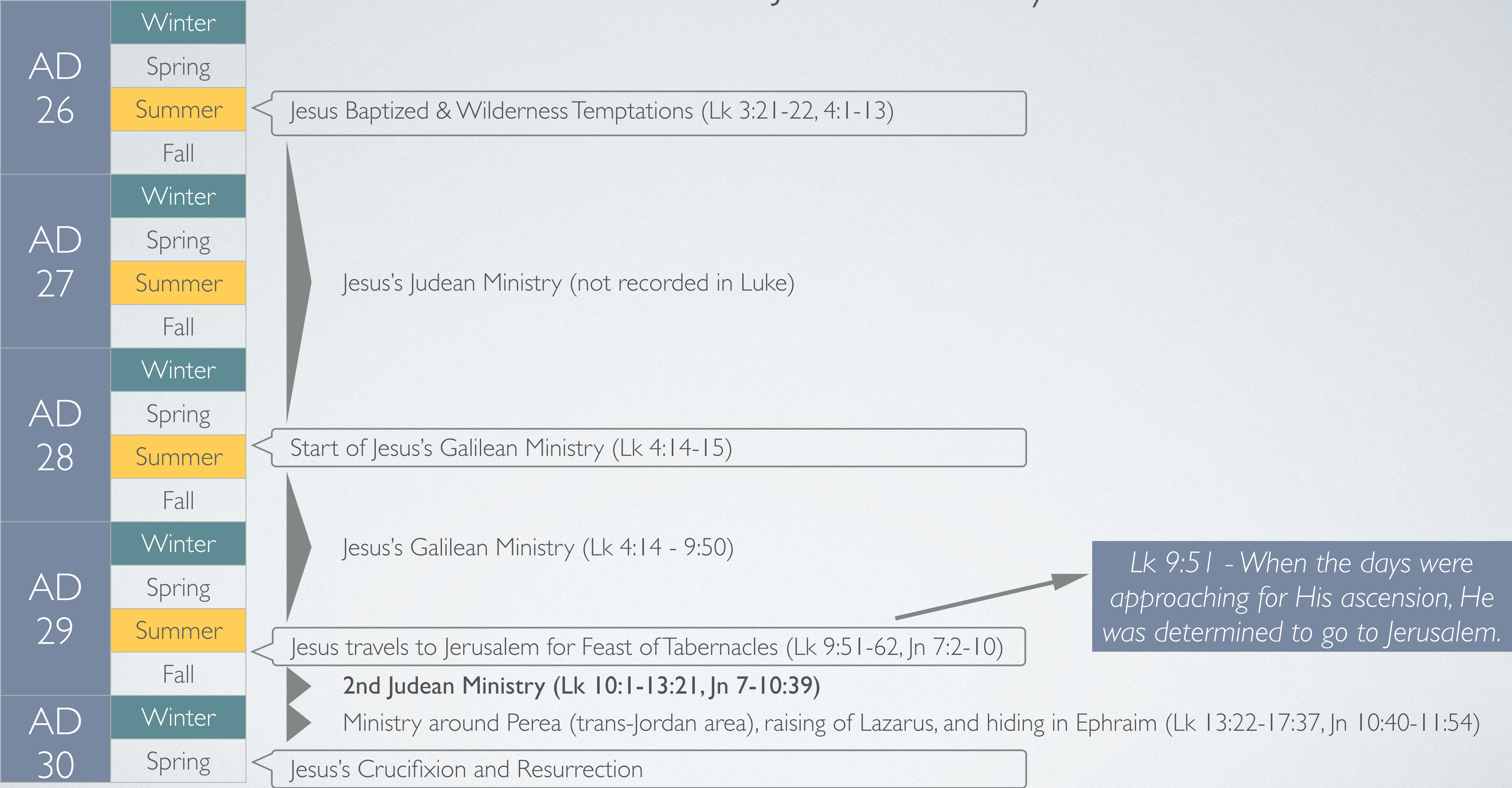
Luke 11:27-54

March 1, 2020

Introduction / Background

- A. Theme 1 - Jesus confronting the crowd's unbelief (14-36)
- B. Theme 2 - Jesus's confrontation of the religious leaders' hypocrisy (37-54)

Timeline of Jesus's Ministry



Introduction

- A. Theme 1 - Jesus confronting the crowd's unbelief (14-36)
- B. Theme 2 - Jesus confronting the Jewish leaders (37-54)
- C. Other Background - Key dynamics of Jesus's 3-4 month Judean ministry
 - Dynamic 1 - Growing hostility from the Jewish leadership
 - 2 Groups of Jewish leaders
 - Pharisees - "the Jews", Pharisees, rulers, scribes, and lawyers
 - Sadducees / Chief Priests
 - Dynamic 2 - The crowds debating whether they would accept Jesus or reject Him
 - *Jn 7:12–13--12 There was much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him; some were saying, "He is a good man"; others were saying, "No, on the contrary, He leads the people astray." 13 Yet no one was speaking openly of Him for fear of the Jews.*

Confronting Unbelief (14-36)

- A. Jesus casts out a mute demon (14)
- B. The crowd's controversy (15-16, 27-28)
 - Response 1 - Outright Rejection (15)
 - Jesus's defense (17-26): their reasoning was non-sensical
 - Response 2 - Those who wanted to see more signs (16)
 - Jesus will address in vs. 29-36
 - Response 3 - Misplaced esteem (27-28)
 - Spiritual blessing is not based on external things like physical or familial or some other external connection to Jesus, but rather true spiritual blessing is evidenced by a person hearing and obeying the Word of God.
 - A person's obedience to the word is an accurate barometer of their spiritual standing before God.

Confronting Unbelief (14-36)

A. Jesus's challenge to those who wanted more signs (29-36)

- Jesus's assessment (29a) - Wicked
- The sign of Jonah (29b-30)
 - Option 1 - a messenger sent by God to proclaim salvation and the need for repentance. (Best fit)
 - Option 2 - a reference to Jesus's resurrection as the ultimate confirming miracle
- Condemnation of the Jewish people by the Queen of Sheba and Ninevites (31-32)
 - Their responses to the limited message they received are an open rebuke to the Jewish people who rejected the greater messenger, Jesus.
- The real problem - spiritual blindness (33-36)
 - General principle (33) - you don't hide a light
 - Jesus's point - He wasn't withholding the truth from them in any way
 - Metaphor of the eye (34-36)
 - Warning against self-deception (35)

Jesus's Confrontation of the Religious leaders' hypocrisy (37-54)

- A. The lunch invitation and Pharisee's surprise (37-38)
- B. Indictment 1 - They focused on externals and not the heart (39-41)
- C. Indictment 2 - They focused on the extremely minor issues and ignored the major ones (42)
- D. Indictment 3 - They were arrogantly consumed with being honored by others (43)
- E. Indictment 4 - They were actually filled with death and were sources of uncleanness for those who come in contact with them (44)
- F. The offended lawyer (45)
- G. Indictment 5 - Their system of extra-biblical tradition created an increasing burden that offered no real help in living up to what the OT law truly taught. (46)
- H. Indictment 6 - They hypocritically honor the prophets while committing a worse sin in their rejection of Jesus and future persecution of the church. (47-51)
- I. Indictment 7 - Their efforts had only served to obscure a right understanding of the law and scriptures (52)
- J. The result – hostility and plots (53-54)