

Surprising or Expected?

During the last few months of Jesus' ministry, he led his disciples through the territory east of the Jordan River known as Perea. As Jesus traveled, he spoke of the kingdom of God and entertained questions about his teaching. Today's Bible text is an example of this.

The statements below are observations about or paraphrases of the text. Read each one and decide whether that information is surprising to you (S) or expected by you (E). There are no right or wrong answers. What is important is that you can explain why you marked each statement as you did.

- _____ 1. Jesus constantly taught, even when he traveled.
- _____ 2. Those who followed Jesus desired to know if they were part of a chosen few destined for God's kingdom.
- _____ 3. Jesus avoided answering that question.
- _____ 4. Jesus insisted that his followers make sure that they would enter the kingdom rather than worrying about how many would be there.
- _____ 5. Jesus spoke of a time when the door the kingdom would be closed, allowing no more to enter.
- _____ 6. Some who accompanied Jesus would not exhibit the faith to enter the kingdom.
- _____ 7. Simply being descendants of Abraham would not qualify people to enter the kingdom.
- _____ 8. People of nations far from Israel will be a part of the kingdom while some Israelites will not.
- _____ 9. Those who would be the last to hear and understand God's revelation (the Gentiles) will be first in line when entering the kingdom.
- _____ 10. Those who were the first to receive God's revelation (the Jews) will be last in line when entering the kingdom.