

4000 Fed (145)

Read Matthew 15 v 29-38

Intro= Return to Galilee v 29 Read

Our Lord departs from Phonecia having helped one woman's daughter. He had travelled all that way to help one person in Gods' providence.

MH say's

' He that knows the worth of souls would go a great way to help to save one from death and Satan's power'(p222)

We see from Christ's behaviour the value off souls?

Then after the rest He returns to Galilee, His home , the place that he loves, the place that He chose to live during His 3 year ministry.

'Came nigh unto the sea of Galilee and went up into a mountain and sat down there' (v 29)

Notice that it actually says 'THE ' mountain, when it mentions mountain discriminated by the article (grammar)

(Matt 5v1Sermon on the Mount, 14 v 23 feeding 5000 on mountain up the valley from Bethsaida and 28v16 Christ's ascension from the mountain which He had

arranged to meet the disciples at ' *unto the mountain where He had appointed them*')

So it says He went up into the mountain, near the sea of Galilee, a particular mountain were He usually went.

Clarke says ' *a mountain which he was accustomed to frequent*' (p223)

So the Lord went back to Galilee to the mountain He usually went to up near Bethsaida according to my reasoning. And He sat down!

And because He usually went to the mountain the people knew where He was and they came in crowds to him as usual

X 2 Things

1. Fame and Wonders 30-31
2. Compassion on the Multitude v32-38

1. Fame and Wonders v 30-31

A great crowd gathers as is becoming usual in the lord Jesus ministry, a crowd 4000+ women and children 8 or 10? We see something of the fame which is sweeping Israel concerning Jesus.

This great crowd come and the bring all their sick and lay them down at Jesus feet (the Lame, Blind, Dumb, Maimed and many other , and you know what?

He healed them all !

The multitude wondered, where amazed at seeing these Messianic signs and notice what it says?

'they glorified the God of Israel' (v31)

The purpose of Jesus earthly ministry, and the purpose of His miracle's and healings was and is to lead people to worship / glorify God.

Application or teaching?

1. In great times in God's kingdom great crowds gather not only in Christ's earthly ministry but throughout church history.

Remember G Whitefield and the miners? at one time it is reckoned that upward of 30.000 people gathered for his preaching, and Daniel Rowlands in Wales and many, many other times. In great times for God's kingdom people are hungry to hear the word like these people on the mountain.

Need I say we do not live in those great times in our land.

Not only do crowds not gather to hear preaching but open air preachers are hated and persicuted by the forces of 'law and order' so called.

But also God's people do not gather in crowd's as they used to too hear the word, in fact many are not even interested in the basics of Sunday worship.

Imagine the reality of that?

God's people say they '*cannot find time*' to come to church and fellowship together.

Is not this just like Mal 1 v 13 '*behold what a weariness it is! and ye have snuffed at it*'

Partial to God's word 2 v 9

Not supporting God's work 3 v 8-12

Oh remember these are signs of a people of God under Judgement and chastisement, when even God's people do not bother but dwell at ease in Zion while they Temple is in ruins.

But that is were we all are in Uk church scene?

Churches closing, struggling

'is it nothing to you , all ye that pass by' Lam1 v 12

'Is it time for you to dwell in you pannelled houses and this house (God's house) lie waste' Hag1 v 4

*' How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people,
how is she become as a widow, she that was great
among the nations, and princess amount the provinces,
how is she become a tributary? Lam 1 v1*

*Deut 28 v 62 ' And ye shall be left few in number
whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude,
because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD
thy God'*

And who really cares? , oh I know some do but
lukewarm professors do not, in many the 'ME first'
attitude prevails My comfort and pleasure before God.

Learn also from this

2. From Jesus healing all manner of sickness, the
diseases of our souls are much worse and harder to fix
than those of the body. Yet he easily heals these
peoples bodies

JC Ryle

*'Behold in these words a lively emblem of our Lord
Jesus Christ's power to heal sin diseased souls. There
is no ailment of heart that he cannot cure. There is no
form of spiritual complaint that he cannot overcome.
(p149)*

How let us come secondly to:

2. Compassion on the Multitude v 32-38

1. Who?

Notice who Jesus has compassion upon. Of whom is the multitude comprised. Angels? Perfect people? Saints? No, sinners. Jesus has compassion on:

A. Sinners who realised their need.

Because that's who this crowd was made up of -- ordinary hell deserving sinners, and yet they had heard and seen something in Jesus Christ that showed them that they were in need.

MH says,

'Such was the goodness of Christ that he admitted all sorts of people, the poor as well as the rich are welcome to Christ, and with him there is room enough for all comers. He never complained of crowds or throngs of seekers, or looked with contempt upon the vulgar, the herd as they are called, for the souls of peasants are as precious to Him as the souls of princes.' (p222)

B. People who were committed.

They had been with him for three days according to verse 32. This is an example of their zeal and the strength of their commitment to Jesus Christ. They left their home comforts and spent three days in the wilderness listening to the Word preached.

C. People willing to suffer for the Word.

We notice that the people, according to the Lord in verse 32, were hungry as they had not eaten in three days. That tells us these people were willing to suffer discomfort in order to hear the Word.

They were keen and willing to put themselves out unlike many today who cannot even be bothered to get in a car (with heaters, air conditioning, reclining chairs, and head rests) to even attend church for one and a half hours per week. The willingness of the crowd to hear Christ preaching the Word shows shallowness and lack of willingness to suffer **anything** even slight discomfort, today.

Are we willing to put God first in our lives?

2. Notice what Jesus does for these people, who he had compassion upon.

A. He practically helps them.

-He heals them.

-He teaches them. (Spiritually)

-He feeds them. (Physically)

In other words we see Jesus provides for these people what they really need in verse 33 to 28.

Why does he do this?

The very simple answer is: because he cares for them, and we see that in verse 32. Where the Lord says that he has '*compassion*' and did not want to send them away '*lest they faint*'.

B. He is a man off the people.

He sits down with ordinary people, not apart from nor above the people.

Churchill - going to big speech in parliament travelled on the tube train, people were astounded PM on public transport, and he talked to Mrs so and so and Mr so and so and even little children about Hitler and the war, because he wanted to hear from the common people. This is what inspired him to make that great speech '*we will fight them on the beaches and so on*'

This is what greatly endeared him to the people and gave him so much support.

So we see with our Lord to a greater degree, He related to ordinary people , He didn't despise them indeed He showed He cared for them

C. He didn't take advantage of them.

Remember our Lord was poor yet we do not find Him charging money for listening to the Word, nor saying '*£10 per healing?*'

No freely you have received freely give?.

So Conclusion and Summary

Jesus went to the mountain were He usually went and the Crowds came

1. Fame and Wonders

Great crowds gather to hear the Word preached during great days for the Kingdom. Not so in UK today is a sign of something?

2. Compassion in the Multitude

1. Who?

- A. Sinners who realise their need
 - B. People who were committed.
 - C. People who were willing to suffer for the Word.
1. What Jesus does for those He has compassion upon.

- A. He practically helps them
 - Heals them
 - Teaches them (Spiritual food)
 - Feeds them (Physical food)

Jesus does not ignore peoples need because He cares for them really.

- B. He is a man of the people
- C. He didn't take advantage of them.

2 Questions?

- 1. Are we Christians like this Multitude?
 - A. Sinners who realise their need

B. People who were committed.

C. People who were willing to suffer for the Word.

2. Are we Christians like Jesus Christ?

He practically helps them

- Teaches them (Spiritual food)

- Feeds them (Physical food)

B. He is a man off the people.

C. He didn't take advantage of them.

Are we committed?

Willing to suffer discomfort for the Word?

Do we care about the Lost?

Do we give the impression we are ordinary people?

God forbid we should take advantage of people?

Jesus Feeds 4000 men plus women and children in the wilderness and 5000 men plus women and children elsewhere.

Is there a wider theological message?

Yes God feeding His people in the desert 40 years and providing for their Physical and Spiritual needs'

So in the Gospels Jesus does the same?

Feeds thousands of people in the desert and meets all their needs.

Jesus is Divine He is Gods and doing God's work.

Amen