

February 7, 2021

The New Testament!

Matthew 14:34-36

"And Brought to Him All Who Were Sick!"

All Scripture ESV English Standard Version unless noted!

Matthew 14:34-36 And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. **35** And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick **36** and implored him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

Introduction

Today we come to the disciples and Jesus coming ashore in Gennesaret

These people at least knew of Jesus

They had faith in Him

They loved their neighbors enough to tell them about Jesus

They brought all the sick to Him

Their faith implies that they know of His power and have confidence in his goodness.

He heals diseases and calms the storm

He imparts to His followers great power

Wherever He went He was doing good

Today...

The great faith of the men of that place

The fruit and success of their coming to Christ

Expounding of the Scripture!

Matthew 14:34-36 And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. **35** And when the men of that place recognized him, they sent around to all that region and brought to him all who were sick **36** and implored him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

They began to gather

They expressed their faith in Him

They exhibited great love in bringing their neighbors to Him

They told it to everyone

They brought all the sick to Him

To just touch the hem of his garment was an expression of their faith

They believed there was such a fullness in Christ that was all they needed to touch

It was their faith in Christ, not their touch of his garment, that healed them

I. The great faith of the men of that place

By their going and bringing they expressed their faith in Him

We that know we should talk more to the Lord about those that are sick

We that know we should talk to those that do not know Him

We that know we should always be looking for an opportunity to witness

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

They applied themselves to Him
They sought Him passionately
Jeremiah 29:11-13 NIV For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

The greatest favors and blessings are to be obtained from Christ by prayer
Matthew 7:7-8 NIV Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

- II. The fruit and success of their coming to Christ
It was not in vain that they sought Him
For all where made perfectly whole

Christ's cures are perfect cures
Those He heals, He heals perfectly
He that has begun the good work will perform it

Philippians 1:6 NIV Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

There is an abundance of healing virtue in Christ for all that apply themselves to Him
Psalms 133:2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!

All of Christ's institutions is replenished with the overflowing fullness of his grace
When we mix faith with the word, apply it to ourselves, depend upon it, and submit to its influences and commands, we are touching the hem of Christ's garment

The Nature of True Faith!

Giving our lives to Him and trusting Him with our lives for eternity!

True faith is not merely knowing and having knowledge of who Jesus is and what He has done, notitia (no-tich ah)

True faith is not just believing He and His work can save us from our sins, assensus (as sen sus)

True faith is daily giving our lives to Him now and trusting our lives now and in eternity to Him!

It is submitting to His Lordship now and forever

Invitation

Again this morning I want to address this issue of Lordship or submission

Exodus 20:2-3 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

You believe and feel as if you really know and understand the Scripture when it comes to the gospel

But let me ask you; have you committed your life today and in eternity to Him?

Does your life look as if you belong to Christ?

Romans 10:9NIV If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

To be born again, to be converted to be saved is
acknowledge His Lordship and to submit to His
Lordship personally

The act of believing in Christ is more than something
you do with your mouth and mind, it has to do with
our affections and will

***Acts 16:31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus,
and you will be saved, you and your household."***

Anyone submitting daily, working on hourly and
striving for minute my minute

***Psalm 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you
perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.***

To respond to Christ is to kiss Him in surrender to
Him and His Lordship

***Matthew 11:29 NIV Take my yoke upon you and learn
from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you
will find rest for your souls.***

It is to take His yoke and to learn from Him

***Hebrews 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the
source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.***

It is to obey Him

We do this because we are born again and have no
problem in submitting to His Lordship

We are thrilled to say, "You are my Lord and My
God"

So what have you done with Christ?

You have knowledge of Him

You even believe He lived a perfect life and suffered
a cruel death, was buried, resurrected and returned
to Heaven, is reigning from there and soon returning

But have you given your life now and forever to
Him?

Romans 12:1-2 NIV *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

February 4, 2021

"We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:28-29)

Dear Praying Friends,

Aleksandr Isayevich Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008) was born into a line of Cossack intellectuals. His father died before he was born, and he was raised by his mother. With a degree in Mathematics from Rostov-na-Donu University, he studied literature at Moscow State University via correspondence. He rose to the rank of captain in World War II, but was arrested in 1945, caught for writing a letter that criticized Joseph Stalin. After eight years in prisons and labor camps, and three more years in forced exile, he became an outspoken critic of the Soviet Union and communism and helped to raise global awareness of the Soviet Gulag forced-labor camp system. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1970 in absentia. In 1973, part of his *The Gulag Archipelago* was published in Paris. It documented the arrest, interrogation, conviction, transportation, and imprisonment of the Gulag's victims as practiced by the Soviet Union over four decades. He was arrested and charged with treason, and in 1974 was exiled from the Soviet Union. In December he took possession of his Nobel Prize. In 1978 Solzhenitsyn gave the

commencement speech at Harvard University. Here are excerpts from one analysis:

In 1978, at Harvard, America heard from a prophetic voice. His comments have proven true. Few college commencement speakers these days dare challenge our culture's rampant political correctness and secularism. But a generation ago, on June 8, 1978, the renowned Soviet dissident Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn gave a stunning address at Harvard University that not only made those assembled there uncomfortable but provoked many to boo.

Why would the audience boo this moral giant who had stared down a brutal communist dictatorship's Gulags and won the Nobel Prize in literature? Because people expected him to celebrate the West and condemn communism, but he came over and condemned communism and the West. Not only this, but Solzhenitsyn had the gall to speak of something reviled at the time by the elites on both sides of the Atlantic: truth. "[T]ruth," Solzhenitsyn said, "eludes us if we do not concentrate our attention totally on its pursuit. But...the illusion of knowing it still lingers and leads to many misunderstandings. Also, truth seldom is pleasant; it is almost invariably bitter."

In a classic analysis of our prevailing worldview, Solzhenitsyn said the West had exchanged belief in unchanging truth for a relentless legalism. The most tragic and significant result, he said, was the absence of "civil courage." And he pointed to three lines of evidence:

First, "destructive and irresponsible freedom had been granted boundless space." How a culture understands freedom -- whether to virtue or for immediate gratification -- determines its stability. As Os Guinness wrote in his recent book "A Free People's Suicide," the greatest enemy of freedom, ironically, is freedom. I would tweak that a bit--the greatest enemy of freedom is poorly defined freedom, what Chuck Colson called freedom without virtue.

Second, Solzhenitsyn pointed to the decadence of art and a lack of great statesmen... While there are certainly many courageous individuals worthy of our respect, consider how our society has defined greatness down. This is evidenced by the fact that the Arthur Ashe Courage Award by ESPN, once awarded to Nelson Mandela, will this year be awarded to Bruce Jenner -- not for his Olympic feats but for his announcement that he was a woman, a year after they awarded it to Michael Sam for announcing his sexual orientation. And we have long struggled with who to call heroes in the West: confusing celebrities and athletes with heroes. As Dr. Bill Brown, a mentor and co-author of mine, says: in other countries, heroes make history. In our country, they make CDs and touchdowns.

And Solzhenitsyn's final warning referred to the 1977 New York City blackout when, as he said, "all of a sudden crowds of American citizens start looting and creating havoc." If that reminds you of recent events, you are not alone.

Can anything be done about the loss of civil courage? Well, our friend Eric Metaxas has written about two individuals who found themselves in fragile cultural moments not dissimilar to ours: William Wilberforce and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. While Wilberforce, by God's grace, was able to see a cultural and spiritual recovery, Bonhoeffer was not. And yet, neither man was a failure. Like them, we do not know the future of our culture, but that's not up to us. What is up to us is to courageously commit ourselves to truth and virtue, love God and our neighbor, and care for the victims of the bad ideas our culture is promoting.

As Father Richard John Neuhaus wisely said, paraphrasing T. S. Eliot, "For us, there is only the trying . . . the rest is God's business."

Speaking Truth to Culture -- A few boos at a commencement speech could not deter a man like Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn who survived the Soviet Gulag. Will we have Solzhenitsyn-like courage when the crowd turns on us for our faith? (Read and watch Solzhenitsyn's Harvard commencement speech; Chuck Colson on Solzhenitsyn; John Stonestreet on Solzhenitsyn's Graduation Speech Revisited)

Standing for Christ in a "Cancel Culture" -- Solzhenitsyn lived in a full-orbed cancel culture. If you disagreed with the government or criticized the state leaders or policies, you were risking your freedom, even your life, and you could be sentenced to the Gulag. In places all over the world today, people suffer in such cancel cultures,

especially Christians in North Korea, China, Cuba, and Venezuela -- in other words, wherever communist regimes rule, and also in countries where radical Islam or wars to impose radical Islam have prevailed. The U.S. has been a light to the world because of our Christian roots. Our Declaration and Constitution and their promise guarantee certain unalienable rights. However, we are seeing those rights and the people they belong to being "cancelled out" on every side. Governments have been guilty of overstepping their authority. Mandates of many kinds related to the threat of COVID have crushed businesses, jobs, families, livelihoods, retirement savings, schools, and churches.

Several social media giants have chosen to cancel users who do not agree with their political philosophy or those who express their disapproval of practices the Bible teaches as sinful and a danger to our nation. They cancel us by calling us haters, racists, and more, which could not be farther from the truth. But now, under the Biden administration and the Democrat-controlled House, numerous anti-Christian, anti-life, anti-liberty dictates have been made from the White House, and the new administration is just getting started. Now, America must endure an effort to "cancel out" former President Trump and every American who supported him. This will not "unify" America. And if the enmity that has brought such hostility and division in our land persists and continues to grow, our nation cannot stand in the long run as history and the word of God demonstrate.

God hates violence. He sent a flood to destroy all the people on earth except for Noah and his family. He ordained a law after the flood requiring men to uphold the sanctity of human life and to suffer death for shedding innocent blood.

As more and more entities violate others by "cancelling" them, there will likely be continued increase in tension. A majority of Americans disagree with having to pay taxes to pay for abortions in the U.S. and abroad. Most parents do not want to subject their children to being taught racism in the name of "anti-racism," or being taught that they may be one of a hundred genders and not the boys and girls God made them. Already, 18 states have laws that prevent counselors from helping and parents from getting help for their gender-confused children. Proposed federal legislation would expand the practice. Elections have consequences, and although a number of Executive Orders have already been signed that are wholly offensive to God-fearing people, they have not yet made the impact they will. And as last week's Prayer Targets discussed, curriculum changes are being made in some states that are not only distasteful, but abominable to Bible-believing Christians. More and more, our faith and our religious freedoms are being violated. It has been anecdotal up until now, but it will soon be systematic if God does not intervene.

If government leaders persist in openly quashing the rights and religious consciences of those with whom they disagree with no regard to the U.S. Constitution and the promises of our First Amendment, and if some of the

anti-Christian values and dictates that have been predicted come true (although prayer and practical citizenship action could succeed in holding back the tide of cancel culture), we who believe could very easily be subject to more than having our Facebook or Twitter account suspended. (See: Canceling America; Canceling babies; Mike Lindell; Sen. Josh Hawley; Manhood; Cancelling History; Surviving the Cancel Culture)

February 7, 2021, **Upcoming dates of importance for members!**

LADDIES PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY FOR THE CONFERENCE!

Every Wednesday night, Bible studies for all ages, 630 P.M. Lesson 28 this week!

February 10, 2nd Maranatha Rapture Bowl,
February 10, 2021, 6:30 P.M! Come and see how well you know the book of Genesis through chapter 11!

February 13, Church wide clean-up day. 8-Noon!
If you can't make that day we can assign some things that need done prior to the actual work day!

February 20, Women's Conference, 8:30 A.M. till 2ish P.M. Michelle Leslie will again be with us. The subject will be something to do with "women thinking wisely"! Breakfast 8:30, 2 morning sessions, lunch and question and answer session after lunch!

March 14-Conregational meeting

March 22-26-Spring Break

April 4-Resurrection Sunday

April 11-Men's Breakfast

April 25-Spring Cookout at the Park

What I wish you to understand is the value of money, (John Mackenzie, "Letters from a Father to His Son" 1848-1849)

What I wish you to understand is the value of money--that it is obtained by labor and perseverance, by industry and self-denial; and by the exercise of a suitable economy, it is not to be carelessly thrown away!

You know I required you lately to save your allowances until you could pay for a window you had broken. I did that not so much because I was angry with you for breaking the window, but to teach you to save your money, and deny yourself for a time the little indulgences it might have purchased for you. In short, it was to give you a little practical lesson on economy.

Please observe that frugality and stinginess are very different things. By saving your money and not always running to a shop to spend it as soon as you get it, you will generally have some in your pocket to give to a poor person in distress, or to enable you to make a little present to a school-fellow you may respect, or who may have been useful or kind to you.

The habit of foolish and reckless expenditures is a very bad one! It grows upon those who indulge in it, and is frequently, in after life, the cause of a ruin which may be dated from the thoughtless and uncorrected errors and follies of childhood.

STANDING ON THE PROMISES

He has given us his very great and precious promises — 2 Peter 1:4 NIV

1. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of Christ my King, Thro' e - ter - nal a - ges
2. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es that can-not fail, When the howl-ing storms of
3. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of Christ the Lord, Bound to Him e - ter - nal -
4. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es I can-not fall; Lis - t'ning ev - 'ry mo-ment

let His prais - es ring; Glo - ry in the high - est, I will shout and sing,
 doubt and fear as - sail, By the liv - ing Word of God I shall pre - vail,
 ly by love's strong cord, O - ver - com - ing dai - ly with the Spir - it's sword,
 to the Spir - it's call, Rest - ing in my Sav - ior as my all in all,

Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God. Stand - ing, stand - ing,
 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God my Sav - ior; Stand - ing, stand - ing,
 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

stand - ing, I'm stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

WORDS: R. Kelso Carter, 1849-1928
 MUSIC: R. Kelso Carter, 1849-1928

PROMISES
 Irregular