

Compassion for the People

Matthew 15:29 And **Jesus** departed from thence, and came **nigh unto the sea of Galilee;** and went up into a mountain, and sat down there. 30 And **great multitudes** came unto him, having with them those that were **lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others,** and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and **he healed them:** 31 Inasmuch that the **multitude wondered,** when they saw the **dumb** to speak, the **maimed** to be whole, the **lame** to walk, and the **blind** to see: and they glorified the God of Israel. 32 Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, **I have compassion on the multitude,** because they **continue with**

me now three days, and have **nothing to eat:** and **I**
will not send them away fasting,
lest they faint in the way. 33 And his disciples say
unto him, **Whence** should we have so much bread in the
wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude? 34 And Jesus
saith unto them, **How many loaves have ye?**
And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes. 35 And he
commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. 36 And
he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and **gave**
thanks, and **brake** them, and **gave** to his disciples,
and the disciples to the multitude. 37 And **they did all**
eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat
that was left seven baskets full. 38 And they that did eat were
four thousand men, beside women and

children. 39 And he sent away the multitude, and took ship, and came into the coasts of Magdala.

- Let's review some lessons we have learned so far in [Matthew 15](#)
 - The **enemies of truth** are often religious people who want to hang on to man made **traditions**
 - Satan loves to use religion to **blind the minds** of lost people to the **simple truths of God's Word**
 - Be careful with any religious system that gives you an **excuse to sin and disobey God's Word**
 - Never fall into the trap of worshipping with your **lips and not your heart**
 - True holiness comes from the inside. We do not want to major on **externals but internals**
 - **Getting over traditions** we learned in the past is really hard. Peter also had a hard time getting over it
 - **God loves everybody** and **wants the world to know** what Jesus did on the cross of Calvary

1. Jesus is still working and preaching in a Gentile area
 - a. He is in a place called Decapolis [Mark 7:31](#) **And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis.**
 - i. Mark is what we call a parallel passage. Another passage of Scripture telling the same story with maybe some added details
 - ii. Decapolis refers a region that included 10 cities that had been authorized by the Romans to have their own money, run their own courts, and even have their own army
 - iii. It is a predominantly Gentile territory
 - b. Apparently the crowd comes because of a deaf man getting healed [Mark 7:31](#) **And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis.** [32](#) **And they bring** unto him one that was **deaf,** and had an **impediment in his**

speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him. ³³ And he took him aside from the multitude, and **put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue;** ³⁴ And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, **Ephphatha,** that is, **Be opened.** ³⁵ And straightway his **ears were opened,** and the string of his tongue was loosed, and **he spake plain.** ³⁶ And he charged them that **they should tell no man:** but the **more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it;** ³⁷ And were **beyond measure astonished,** saying, **He hath done all things well:** he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.

c. Now the crowds came ³⁰ And **great**

multitudes came unto him, having with them those

that were **lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others,** and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and **he healed them:** ³¹ Insomuch that the **multitude wondered,** when they saw the **dumb** to speak, the **maimed** to be whole, the **lame** to walk, and the **blind** to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

- d. Notice the difference in how the Gentiles respond to Jesus
- i. The Jews had said He was in league with Satan ^{Matthew 12:22} Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. ²³ And all the **people were amazed,** and said, Is not this the son of David? ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, **This fellow doth not cast out devils, but**

by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

ii. The Jewish cities had refused to repent
iii. The unbelief of the Jews shocked Jesus [Mark 6:6](#) **And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.**

iv. Instead the Gentiles believe [31](#) **Insomuch that the multitude wondered,** when they saw the **dumb** to speak, the **maimed** to be whole, the **lame** to walk, and the **blind** to see: and

they glorified the God of Israel.

e. Another great mercy from this preaching trip is that Jesus will spend 6 months with His disciples on the road, surely getting them ready for His last trip to Jerusalem

i. This trip would have been similar to going from Philadelphia to Atlanta by way of New York

- ii. Jesus deliberately takes longer on this journey to have more time with His disciples
- iii. This trip lasted approximately 6 months
- f. Jesus cares about the world. He is going about doing what it takes to get the gospel to the world. What am I doing to get the gospel out here and around the world?

2. Jesus had compassion on the people **32** Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, **I have compassion on the multitude,** because they **continue with me** now three days, and have **nothing to eat:** and **I will not send them away** fasting, **lest they faint** in the way.
- a. The God of the Bible is a God of compassion. He hurts, feels the pain that people are going through.

i. He cares and wants to help [John 3:16](#) For God **SO**

loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him **should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

ii. Remember that since the first story in the Bible it is always God that comes seeking man

iii. In the Bible it is God that shows man how to get things right with God and get back to Him

iv. In the Bible it is God that does it all to save man

v. His love is beyond our comprehension

[Lamentations 3:22](#) It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

b. Jesus felt compassion. He hurt for them and wanted to help them

c. The people had now been with Jesus for 3 days and He would not allow them to leave without eating. They might get weak and faint on the trip home

d. He will not send them away. He will not leave them helpless

- e. He is about to work a miracle but will not preach with the miracle
 - f. He has already shown His power by working miracles. He has put feet back on legs etc. This miracle is just because He can't stop loving
 - g. Do I love people? Am I willing to sacrifice to make the gospel get to others?
 - h. What have I done that made me uncomfortable when trying to get the gospel to the world
3. The disciples respond poorly again **33** And his disciples say unto him, **Whence** should we have so much bread in the **wilderness**, as to fill so great a multitude?
- a. It would seem that they have forgotten the feeding of the 5000. **Matthew 16:9** Do ye **not yet understand, neither remember** the five loaves of the **five thousand**, and how many baskets ye took up? **10** Neither the seven loaves of the

four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

- b. They should have just gotten excited thinking, He is about to do it again but instead they fall back to their old ways, how is this going to work
- c. One thing for sure they knew that they couldn't feed the people by themselves
- d. They didn't have the resources and could see that humanly speaking there was no way to get them
- e. How do I respond when I see a need?
- f. Do I trust God and step out or do I start making excuses

4. God in human flesh again shows His power **34** And Jesus saith unto them, **How many loaves have ye?** And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes. **35** And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. **36** And **he took** the seven loaves and the fishes, and **gave thanks,** and **brake** them, and **gave** to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. **37** And

they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full. 38 And they that did eat were **four thousand men, beside women and children.** 39 And he sent away the multitude, and took ship, and came into the coasts of Magdala.

a. Jesus asked them what they had that they could give

34 And Jesus saith unto them, **How many loaves have ye?** And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes.

b. Jesus took what they had, told the people to sit down and then let the apostles take part in another miracle 35 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. 36 And **he took** the seven loaves and the fishes, and **gave thanks,** and **brake** them, and **gave** to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

i. He took the bread and fish

- ii. He gave thanks
 - iii. He broke it
 - iv. He gave it to His disciples
 - v. He let them give it to the multitude
- c. They gave out the food and Jesus kept making it multiply until all were fed and food was left over **37** And **they did all eat,** and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full.
- d. They didn't just eat they got full **37** And **they did all eat, and were filled:** and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full.
- i. No one went away hungry
 - ii. They all ate and were filled
 - iii. They were satisfied
 - iv. They still had enough food to fill 7 large baskets
 - 1. The baskets in the feeding of the 5000 had been small baskets like a lunch box
 - 2. These were baskets were large enough for a man to get inside

3. It is the type of basket that was used to let Paul down over the wall in Damascus
 - e. Jesus wanted the disciples to participate in what He was doing, loving the people, meeting their needs
 - f. I know who He is and what He can do so how is that affecting my life
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5. Jesus ministry to the Gentiles teaches us some great truths
 - a. There is no one like Jesus
 - i. He made maimed feet grow back
 - ii. He could create food enough to feed thousands of people
 - iii. He is a miracle working God. From now on the apostles will do all of their miracles in His name
 - b. He healed like no other could heal
 - i. He had made legs, arms, hands, eyes be restored
 - ii. This is no psychosomatic healing
 - iii. This is no imaginary thing. It was obvious to all what He had done

c. His ministry produced worship [31](#) **Insomuch that the multitude wondered,** when they saw the **dumb** to speak, the **maimed** to be whole, the **lame** to walk, and the **blind** to see: and **they glorified the God of Israel.**

d. God's people always have to trust Him for what He has and what He can do. We do not have the ability to do the work, to feed the people

e. God never runs out of what is needed to do the work

i. The bread and fish just kept multiplying

ii. He could have fed them without anything thing to start with

iii. He allowed the disciples to give to simply show them His power and let them feel part of His work

iv. That is why He promises that if we learn to give He will give back more to us [Luke 6:38](#) **Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and**

shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

1. They gave the fish and bread but got back more than they had given
 2. Those that sow little get back little
 3. He teaches us to invest spiritually
- f. God chooses to allow us to be part of His work though He doesn't need us
- g. He never quits loving. That is the biggest lesson today
- i. He had already done great things for them
 - ii. They could have gone home happy having received great healing
 - iii. But He just couldn't let that happen. He had to make sure that they had eaten
 - iv. He cured every disability
 - v. He worried about the tired and hungry
- h. What will I do with these great truths? Will I trust Him and be saved? Will I take this good news to the world? Will I decide that my life is to be lived for His purposes