

Matthew 15:29-38 A Second Miraculous Feeding

Introduction: In this text Jesus had opportunity for the second time to demonstrate His power to miraculously feed a multitude.

I. The gathering of the multitudes.

A. Jesus left Tyre and Sidon and went up into a mountain in Decapolis.

1. Matthew just says that He went up into a mountain near the Sea of Galilee. Verse 29
2. Mark 7:31 says that He went into Decapolis.
3. This would be over on the southeast of the Sea of Galilee.

B. This means that Jesus was still in Gentile territory – sort of. (A mixture of Jewish settlements and Gentile settlements.)

C. A great multitude of people came to Jesus bringing their sick. Verse 30

1. They came Jew and Gentile, well and sick. (The well brought the sick.)
2. They came with great difficulty over mountainous roads and deposited their sick at the feet of Jesus.

II. The astonishment of the multitudes.

A. They must have been sure that Jesus could heal before they came, but they were held in awe by such power.

B. One by one Jesus began to heal. Verses 30-31

1. The dumb were made to speak.
2. The maimed were made whole. (Crippled hands, arms...)
3. The lame were made to walk. (And without a limp.)
4. The blind were made to see. (No eye surgery.)
5. Jesus healed them all. (Completely whole.)

C. They glorified the God of Israel. Verse 31

1. If any Jew had any doubts about the power of Jehovah those doubts were erased.
2. If any Gentile had been hesitant to forsake his idols and turn to Jehovah, his hesitancy was erased.

III. Three glorious days.

A. We will learn in verse 32 that this continued for three days.

B. On the previous occasion when Jesus healed and fed the multitude, it was said that He taught them many things.

1. We can be sure that He did the same thing now.
2. After all, He did not come to seek and to heal, but to seek and to save.

C. What a glorious three days of healing and preaching and praising God.

IV. The food crisis and the miraculous feeding.

A. After three days the food was gone. Verse 32

1. Not that they had been without food three days.
2. But after three days they had eaten up what they had.

B. Jesus said, “I will not send them away fasting.” Verse 32

1. He feared they would pass out trying to get home.
2. He did not heal them of their illness just to have them die on the road.

C. He spoke to the disciples indicating that they should feed the people.

1. The disciples protested that they could not do so. Verse 33
2. Jesus inquired as to their supply. Verse 34
3. The apparent lack of perception and faith of the disciples must make us wonder at our own.

D. Jesus fed the multitude miraculously as He had done before. Verses 35-38

1. He used more food, seven loaves and a few fishes. (He simply used what they had. He had already demonstrated that He did not need that many. He could have done it with one loaf and one fish.)
2. He had less baskets left over. (Twelve before and only seven this time.. But the Greek word for baskets is different. Twelve lunch baskets previously but now seven large hamper baskets.)
3. The crowd was smaller also this time. (Earlier five thousand men plus women and children and this time four thousand men plus women and children. But keep in mind that these traveled over mountainous roads.)

V. The marvelous power of God at work among men today.

A. Because Jesus is not here among us working such miracles today we may overlook what He is doing.

1. By the way, He is not giving these so-called miracle workers any miraculous powers today.
2. But He still feeds the multitudes. Acts 17:28 (He feeds millions every day; tons and tons of food.
3. He saves the souls of all who trust in Him for salvation. Romans 10:13 (Keeping a man out of hell is much more spectacular than feeding him.)
4. He leads thru the teaching of His word and the work of the Holy Spirit.
5. He feeds the souls of millions with the Bible.
6. He provides local New Testament churches for fellowship and encouragement.
7. He stands ready at all times to hear our prayers.

Conclusion:

1. Do you not all stand in awe at what God does for us?
2. Are not some of you ready to trust Jesus and be saved.
3. Are not some of you who are saved ready to come and unite with this church?