

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Jesus Heals a Multitude

Last time...a trap is set by Jesus' enemies, but they get caught in their own trap

This time...while Jesus' enemies plot, He heals a multitude

We will be in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark...starting in Mark 3:7

Mark 3:7-12

v7-8 Jesus withdrew...a great multitude:

The scribes and Pharisees are

- filled with madness that Jesus of Nazareth
 - boldly and persistently “breaks” the Sabbath
 - has declared Himself to be God, the Lord of the Sabbath
 - threatens everything in their world
- conspiring with the Herodians (Gov't) on how to kill Him

With His enemies

- “foaming at the mouth” with hatred for Him
- ganging up on Him
- plotting His death

what does Jesus Christ do?

- Stay close (keep friends close, enemies closer)?
- Seek to get them before they got Him?
- Call down the wrath of God or pursue vengeance at that time?

He

- walks away
 - knowing it is not His enemies' “hour”
 - knowing all things must be fulfilled (Scriptures)
 - knowing His Father has everything in control (faith of Jesus)
- continues
 - the work His Father sent Him to do
 - to train His men, the disciples, with whom His new work will be entrusted
 - His part in v4

Jesus Christ does not care what people think about Him,

He cares what the Father thinks

He walks by His faith, laying down His will for the Father's will

Jesus leads His men to the Sea of Galilee...

and a great multitude of people follow, both Jew and Gentile

- Galilee – Jew and Gentile, local
- Judea – Jew, south
- Jerusalem – Jew, south
- Idumea – Gentile, south and east, on other side of Dead Sea
- Beyond Jordan – Gentile, east
- Tyre and Sidon – Gentile, west and north

Jews and Gentiles from all points of the compass have journeyed from distances upwards of 100 miles all around to the Sea of Galilee to see and hear Jesus of Nazareth...and to be touched by Him

While His enemies foment and the opposition to Him mounts and organizes, Jesus lovingly ministers to the people and His popularity is at its height

A great multitude from all over will be gathered to hear Jesus teach what we refer to as the Sermon on the Mount

v9-10 small ship...throng Him:

In fact so many people have come to see Jesus,
and many of them are so intent on getting as close to Him as possible that they might touch Him and be healed of their plagues/diseases,
that the Lord instructed His disciples to push out in a small fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee

Very large crowd of desperate and needy people...like Black Friday at WalMart...easily becomes of mob, regardless of their intentions

Jesus restores order and calm with a little distance and a “barrier”

From the boat He could tend to First Things First –

- speak the words the Father had given Him to speak
- teach them to take their focus off of themselves and cast it upon the Father in heaven
- teach them the Word of God

v11-12 unclean spirits...not make him known:

Some of the “plagued” are plagued with unclean spirits, demons

Already in His ministry Jesus Christ has repeatedly demonstrated that He is God
by His power over creation – physical realm and the spiritual realm

The scribes and Pharisees do not know Who He is...because they do not believe
the witnesses that proclaim Who Jesus is

- John the Baptist, the prophet of God
- God the Father, Who sent Him
- the works He has done
- the words He has spoken

The people do not know Who He is...they only know their need and His
astonishing power to meet their need

But the demons know with all certainty Who He is!

Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God, the Messiah, the Savior of the world...
the Seed of the Woman (Gen 3:15), their worst nightmare

They fall at His feet...for they must; He has absolute sovereign power over them
Yet, as we have already seen, Jesus does not want the testimony of demons,

so He again imposes a gag order on them

Nor does Jesus want the testimony of man, here during His 1st Coming

Jesus accepts only the testimony of His Father

Matt 12:15-21

v15 when Jesus knew, He withdrew...healed them all:

Jesus knows His enemies are huddling with the intent to kill Him

But He has work to do...the Father's business

And a great multitude followed Him...all of them suffering with one affliction
or another (physical, emotional, or spiritual)

Jesus, with compassion for them, heals them all...whosoever would come to Him
to be healed was healed

The Jewish religious leaders could not heal any of them; they had no answers to
that which plagued the people!

The false gods of the Gentiles WERE a plague on the people

btw...this may still be the Sabbath...all these healings on the day God gave to
bless man, not burden man

Jesus has mercy for the lost sheep of Israel and contempt of the wicked shepherds
of Israel and the false gods of the Gentiles

v16 not make Him known:

Just as Jesus will not accept the testimony of unclean, wicked spirits,
He will not accept the testimony of unclean, wicked man (Jer 17:9)

Jesus is not

- on the campaign trail to be elected King
- debating the false shepherds of Israel or the false gods of the Gentiles
- striving to win a popularity contest
- building a resume and a reputation
- issuing “IOU”s to be cashed in later

Jesus is resolutely determined to

- be about His Father’s business of seeking and saving the lost
- do and say what the Father sent Him to do and say
- make His Father known, to magnify His Father

So He did not withdraw (v15) out of fear of man but out of love for His Father
(obedience)

v17-18 That it might be fulfilled:

Is 42:1-4 is quoted in v18-21

God the Father sent His Son (Mark 3:11) as His chosen Servant

- His beloved
- in Whom He is well-pleased (His testimony in Matt 3, Matt 17)
- upon Whom He put God the Holy Spirit
(Scripture declares the nature of God – Father, Son, Spirit)
- to announce/declare justice/judgment to the Gentiles
 - John 3:16-17 He is unique
 - Matt 5:17 He is unique
 - Is 53 He is unique
 - tender plant
 - no beauty
 - a man of sorrows
 - not esteemed...except to be afflicted
 - oppressed yet silent
 - the Lord’s sin offering
 - Rom 8:1 He is unique
 - Gal 2:16, 20 He is unique

Q: Who cannot possibly be this Servant of God, as revealed in this passage?

A: neither Israel nor the Church (contrary to their opinions of themselves)
Both are witnesses and ambassadors...but not The Servant

We are saved from condemnation by grace thru faith, and that (both) not of ourselves
By God's grace thru Jesus' faith...and our measure of faith invested in Him...
we are in Christ, the Servant of God in Whom He is well-pleased

keywords in v18: servant (John 13), chosen (John 15), and love (1 Cor 13)

v19 not strive, nor cry...His voice:

With His enemies, who do not know or understand Him, hatching a plot to kill Him,

Jesus

- does not go toe-to-toe with His enemies in a “holy showdown”
- does not defend Himself, leaving His defense to His Father
(with John 5:39 in mind: Ps 7, 31, 59, 62, 94)
- remains faithful and true
 - humble
 - meek
 - gentle
 - compassionate
 - focused on the Father's business, not distracted by men
 - to the Father's glory, not His own

v20-21 bruised reed...smoking flax:

The Son of God did not come to us to condemn but to save

He is gentle, merciful, kind, and compassionate

He will not break that which is fragile and weak...us

He will not snuff out the measure of faith He has given us...He will work to re-kindle the flame of man's love for God

(and will not fail nor be discouraged)

Until it is the Father's appointed time to

- judge His enemies
- make known to all creatures the reality known from before the foundation of the world – His absolute and resounding victory over His enemies, also thru His Son

While the scribes, Pharisees, and Herodians plot His death
(thinking that will give them victory over Him), Jesus Christ

- the Servant of God
 - the Representative of God to man
 - His voice
 - His heart/nature
- (and man to God...1 Tim 2:5)

is

- faithful
- focused, not distracted or deterred by murderous, trap-setting enemies
- not discouraged (cannot fail)
- revealing His Father to all who will see and hear

Jer 9:23-24

Wisdom is not in the religion of the Jews
Wisdom is not in the false gods of the Gentiles

Wisdom is not with ISIS

Islam is a plague upon man
Allah is not God, He is the enemy of God
Islam is a spiritual oppression upon the Muslims
Islam is an enemy of the Cross
The place of God's suffering for Adam's race
Where Life and Light defeated death and darkness
To be an enemy of Life and Light is to be death and darkness
Islam is death and darkness

Wisdom is not with any of the Presidential candidates

Wisdom is ONLY in Jesus Christ (1 Cor 1:30)

Who wants to fight against the Almighty Creator, Maker of heaven and earth?

Not even all creatures banded together can win

Who wants to surrender, make their peace with God...victory on His terms?

1 Cor 2:2

Acts 4:12

Lessons for us this morning:

1. Come to Jesus

Have you come today afflicted (physically, emotionally, spiritually)?
In this world corrupted by sin/death and cursed by the holy God, who is NOT afflicted?!

Jesus has come to heal...and no one else can.
Do you believe Jesus can...and wants to?

Have you come today defeated and discouraged?

Jesus has come to encourage the down cast...and nothing else can.
Jesus has come to share His victory...when He receives unconditional surrender

As the demons fell before Jesus (Mark 3:11), so will every man, woman, and child
Phil 2:5-11

Let's do so of our free will while we still have breath...victory thru surrender to the God
Who loves us

Let's not wait, for after our last breath we will fall as the demons did – against their will
on their way to hell

2. Make known the God Who will be known

Jesus did not want demon or man to make Him known, only Him Who sent Him
After His victory (John 19:30, Acts 1:9), the Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit to
make Him known

The ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit is to make Jesus Christ known

- Servant of God
- Son of God
- Savior of the world

The followers of Jesus Christ are the mouthpieces, the messengers of God the Holy Spirit
We make Jesus Christ known by

- Teaching – making disciples
- Preaching – to the lost souls in our spheres of influence

Thus, Rom 1:16-17

Yet because of fear of man, we are ashamed of the Gospel

We have no rational reason for that fear

- 2 Tim 1:7
- Knowing God is rational...the most rational thing a person can do

To anyone, Jew or Gentile, we can ask:

- Do you believe in God?
- What is God like and how do you know God?
- What is God's name?
- How are you pleasing to Him?

To anyone, Jew or Gentile, who asks, we can answer those same questions

Our existence can be explained only by one of these beginnings:

1. Something from nothing – impossible and irrational
2. Something from something – personality from an impersonal thing?
3. Something from Someone – personality from a greater Personality

Our lives only have meaning when we “trace” our beginning to a
personal Creator God

The Creator is Infinite and all of creation is finite

The Creator is a Person/Personality...and has created persons/personalities

The Creator is personal, humans alone are created in the image of God...
the Personal God desires a relationship with man

All of creation is dependent upon the Creator, only the Creator is truly independent

- not dependent upon creation
- has relationship apart from His creation

The Creator God has revealed Himself in His creation and in His written Word

As revealed in the Word of God, the Creator is One God, three Persons

- Always existing
- Self-existing
- In communication, in loving relationship
- Not needing creation/man for relationship

The only answer to the problems facing man (all) and men (individuals) is the Creator

- God the Father
- God the Son, Jesus Christ
- God the Holy Spirit

The Church fathers used by God to record His Word, the Bible, did not invent the
“Trinity”/Triune God

The Triune God already existed and they have been used to reveal Him that He
may be known

The One True Living God has spoken to us by His Word...His Voice –
the Son of God, the Servant of God

As followers of the One True and Living God, we have nothing to be ashamed of

The truth revealed to us is the only, absolute, and unchanging truth...

there are no other answers to all that which plagues man

So faithfully

- make Him known
- share the revealed Truth with boldness...just as Jesus did and will, using us.

May we be as faithful to making Jesus known as Jesus was faithful in making His Father known...we can only by the power of God from on high, the promise of the Father, the baptism of Jesus Christ

Come...to Jesus Christ, the God Who can heal all of our plagues