

THE WORDS AND WORKS OF KING JESUS

PART 11: THE COMPASSIONATE KING

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MATTHEW CHAPTERS 14-15

In these two chapters we read how Jesus not only performed miraculous healings, giving proof that he is who he says he is, but also, they show his great compassion for those who are hurting. Compassion is feeling the suffering of others and doing something tangible about it. Here Jesus expresses his love for those who are suffering by healing the lame, the blind, the mute and many others. Jesus is truly the compassionate King!

I. COMMENTS

Is John Back? (14:1-12)

Hearing about Jesus, Herod Antipas the tetrarch (one of four rulers) superstitiously believed John the Baptist had been raised from the dead.

How to Feed 5,000+ Hungry People (14:13-21)

Upon hearing the news Jesus withdrew from there in a boat to be by himself but the crowd followed him traveling a great distance. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd and was moved with compassion on them...he healed their sick.

Peter Sinks (14:22-33)

Later, Jesus made the disciples get in a boat and go before him to the other side of the lake (Sea of Galilee). Jesus then dismissed the crowds and went up on the mountain to pray.

Just Touch His Garment (14:34-36)

When they came to Gennesaret¹, people were healed simply by touching the fringe of Jesus' garment.

The Trouble with Traditions (15:1-9)

The Pharisees came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked Jesus why his disciples didn't wash their hands before they ate. They were accusing Jesus' disciples of breaking the "traditions of the elders."²

Words Mean Something (15:10-20)

Jesus explained how words of evil murder, adultery sexual immorality, etc., that come out of the mouth defile a person who has an evil heart.

Crumbs and Faith (15:21-28)

A Canaanite woman asked Jesus to free her daughter from the oppression of a demon. The disciples asked Jesus if they could send her away because she was crying out for help.

Jesus replied that he was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel. Later, through the apostles the gospel is to go to the Gentiles (Acts 1:8; 22:21; 26:17-18, 23) but at this point before Israel rejects Jesus as its king, the focus is on the Jews and their spiritual needs (ESV Crossway Bibles Note 15:24).

¹ Gennesaret was either a town or plain on the north-western shore of the Sea of Galilee. Josephus eloquently described the beauty and fertility of the land (Jos. War III. x. 8). The land produced an abundance of grapes, figs, olives, walnuts (Josephus), rice, wheat, vegetables, melons. Bible Gateway <<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/encyclopedia-of-the-bible/Gennesaret>>. Accessed February 11, 2021.

² The "traditions of the elders" is referring to the made up oral "fence laws" (H. *gezerah shavah*) probably developed during the exile period as a means of preventing someone from breaking the written Mosaic Laws. Ironically, some oral laws conflicted with the Mosaic Laws.

The Canaanite women pleads with Jesus saying that even dogs³ will eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table. Because of the Canaanite woman's faith, Jesus healed the Canaanite's daughter.

Healed at His Feet (15:29-31)

Returning to the Sea of Galilee in the area of Decapolis, Jesus healed the lamed, the blind, the mute and many others who then glorified the God of Israel.

How to Feed 4,00+ Hungry People (15:32-39)

Again, having compassion on the crowd that followed him for three days and had nothing to eat. Taking seven loaves of bread and a few small fish, just fed them. Upon completion, there was seven baskets full of bread remaining.

II. DISCUSSING THE TEXT

1. How does Jesus' feeding of the 5,000 encourage you when you feel you have little of nothing to offer him? In what ways might this be applied in your own life?

2. What can you learn about faith and action in Matthew 14:25-31 where Peter went out to meet Jesus on the water? How can you apply this to your own life?

3. What can you learn from Matthew 15:18 and James 3:5-9?

³ The Jews frequently called non-Jews, such as Canaanites, "dogs."

III. APPLICATION

1. There are times in our lives when we, like Jesus, also need _____
_____.
2. When life's storms come our way, we can focus only on them by _____
_____, or we can _____ and put our faith in
Jesus. _____ Our choice.
3. Knowledge of Christ →produces _____ →which brings
_____→that produces _____.
4. "If you want to walk on water you have to _____!"
(John Ortberg)

IV. CHALLENGE FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Matthew Chapters 16-17. The Pharisees tested Jesus by asking for a sign from heaven (16:1-4). Does this mean it is wrong to ask God for a sign when seeking his will? Explain your answer.