



Healing of Multitudes

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him” (Acts 10:38).

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“And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there” (Matthew 19:2).

“And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan; 2 And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there” (Matthew 19:1-2).

“And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings....” (vs 1). The “these sayings” would include His teachings in Matthew 18, which centred on:

- 1) Humility illustrated with a little child (vs 1-5)
- 2) The danger and solution for offences (vs 6-9)
- 3) Warning against despising others (vs 10)
- 4) The mission of Jesus to seek and save the lost (vs 11-14).
- 5) Forgiving trespasses and recipe for reconciliation (vs 15-17)
- 6) The privilege of binding / loosing and the power of agreement in prayer (vs 18-20).
- 7) The extent and importance of forgiveness (vs 21-35).

Teaching was central in the life and ministry of Jesus as it enlightens the soul, feeds the spirit, enhances relationship with God, prepares and qualifies individuals for divine blessings and miracles. Those who despise, get offended at or reject teachings deprive themselves of the associated blessings and privileges, and rather continue in ignorance that destroys (Hosea 4:6).

“... He departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan” (vs 1). Jesus had a plan of action which He meticulously followed. He never allowed the success at one location to tie Him down to one spot. His approach was summed up in the statement “... Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: **for therefore came I forth**” (Mark 1:38). So after the ministry in Galilee He went over to the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan. This implies crossing the river to minister to the

those on the other side. There are people who will not cross a river or other natural barriers to hear the word of God, but Jesus was willing to take the gospel to them. In the same vein, God’s children must be prepared and willing to overcome barriers and limitations in order to take the gospel to others “on the other side”. And God’s grace is sufficient for us!

“And great multitudes followed him” (vs 2). We are not told where these multitudes came from. It could be that some may have followed Him from Galilee after hearing His teachings. It takes commitment and sacrifice to leave other things and take the time to follow Jesus, but it is a step that God delights in and blesses. **The committed will always follow through with perseverance from teachings to miracles.** The disciples demonstrated these when they left their trade and occupations to follow Jesus on receiving Christ’s call.

“... and He healed them there” (vs 2). It is interesting to note that healing came at the end of receiving the teachings and persevering in following on to **“THERE”**. When they started following, they probably did not know where the “there” would be. Had they complained, got discouraged or gave up following before reaching the “there”, they would have missed their healing. This is an important lesson and message for all that we must follow through to get needed miracles. God has already made all the provisions for healing, miracles and blessings but our co-operation is essential in getting them. God has already put the potential in every seed to germinate and grow, but it takes a diligent farmer’s co-operation to take the seed, sow, tend the plant, water it, get rid of the weeds and labour in the harvest in order to enjoy the benefits of that potential. The same applies spiritually!