



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King cares!

Matthew 15:29-39

Message #43 of 80 – S1074

Sermon given on December 3, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King cares!

Matthew 15:29-39

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 15**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King cares!**
- This morning we will be looking at an account that will be very similar to an account in the previous chapter.
- It is similar but not the same.
- In chapter 14, we looked at the feeding of the 5,000.
- This morning we will look at the miraculous feeding of the 4,000.
- **Matthew 15:29**
- In the last message Jesus was in the area of Tyre and Sidon – on the western coast of Lebanon.
- Mark's gospel says that this account happens in the area of the Decapolis – on the east side of the Sea of Galilee.
- The last time Jesus was in this area He healed the demoniac by sending the demons into a herd of pigs who then ran to their deaths in the Sea.
- The people of the area asked Jesus to leave.
- They have a different response this time.
- **Mark 15:30**
- Jesus told the man delivered from the demons to go and tell what had been done for him.
- It is possible that this multitude is the fruit of him doing that.
- Or it could be that Jesus' reputation as a healer is spreading.
- Jesus is out in the wilderness.
- People hear that Jesus is there and they travel miles to get a chance to be laid at Jesus' feet for healing.
- Jesus healed every one of them of everything they needed.

- It is natural for people to expend serious amounts of time and resources to tend to their physical well-being, while at the same time neglecting the state of their soul.
- ‘...at Jesus’ feet...’ – The answer to all our troubles, difficulties, and questions is found here – at Jesus’ feet.
- The feet that walked on water as Lord of creation can handle anything we bring to Him by faith.
- When we struggle with something physically, especially if pain is involved, it forces us to focus on it.
- The problem with the soul is that we might not notice when it is weak or sick.
- Most people, including many in churches, are blind to the fact that their soul is sick with sin.
- As believers, we like to believe that our soul is no longer sick.
- We might think we have the cure – we have Jesus.
- Having Jesus means that our disease is no longer terminal spiritually.
- But just like some physical diseases, even though it is no longer terminal, it is still there and needs to be treated regularly.
- While we are in these bodies of flesh, our soul will be sick with sin.
- By seeking God and walking in faith and obedience with Him we minimize the effects of our soul-sickness. Our cure is in heaven.
- There is no sin-sickness Jesus can’t heal.
- We can bring our temptations, lusts, wrong desires, wrong thoughts, painful memories, doubts, frustrations, and our guilt to Jesus and lay them at His feet and He can heal it.
- He can strengthen the spiritually weak.
- He can give courage to the fearful. He can increase our faith.
- We just need to come to Him and lay it at His feet and trust Him (Matthew 11:28-30).

Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

²⁹ **Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.** ³⁰ **For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.**

- Jesus is still working miracles.
- Naturally, the people are amazed at Jesus’ power to heal.
- **Matthew 15:31**

- This is Gentile territory. Most of the people coming to Jesus for healing are Gentiles.
- These miracles result in the Gentiles glorifying ‘the God of Israel’.
- The miracles testified to the truth that Jesus was the Messiah.
- The same kinds of miracles had a different effect upon the religious leaders of Israel (**Matthew 12:22-24**).

Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. ²³ And all the multitudes were amazed and said, “Could this be the Son of David?” ²⁴ Now when the Pharisees heard *it* they said, “This *fellow* does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.”

- This is a reminder not to let our religion get in the way of what God is doing in our lives and in the world around us.
- Keep your spiritual eyes open to the things of God, even when they don’t line up with the way you do things.
- Jesus then makes a request of the disciples.

- **Matthew 15:32-33**

- We don’t base our faith on our feelings or emotions.
- That doesn’t mean they don’t have a place in our faith.
- Compassion is the emotion Jesus most frequently expressed.
- Christ’s mercy is limitless just like His love.
- The disciples’ response is a bit puzzling to me.
- Turn to **Mark 8**
- We can’t say how much time has passed between the miraculous feeding of the 5,000 and this account, probably not more than two months.
- Could they have forgotten that quickly? Maybe!
- Jesus would ask them a similar question later.

- **Mark 8:14-21**

- It is impossible for us to put ourselves in the place of the disciples.
- Turn back to **Matthew 15**
- They were following Jesus and witnessing one radical expression of His divine power after another.
- He healed thousands of people – even raising the dead.
- He walked on water and preached sermons that amazed everyone.

- At the same time, they had the constant negative messaging of the scribes and Pharisees.
- I'm sure it was overwhelming for fishermen and tax collectors, but still...
- **Matthew 15:34-39**
- This is another expression of His divine creative power.
- The power that He used to create the universe by speaking it into existence was still His to wield.
- Twice it is recorded that Jesus miraculously fed the multitudes.
- Once it was for a multitude of Jews and the second time for a multitude of Gentiles.
- Even though Jesus came primarily to the Jews first – He came to save everyone (**1 John 2:2**).

And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

- Propitiation = substitutionary sacrifice = Jesus died for our sins so that we wouldn't have to die for our sins.
- By believing that - we can be healed of the disease that is 100% contagious and 100% fatal to 100% of humanity – the disease of sin (**Romans 6:23**).

For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- By faith in Christ, we receive the free gift of forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life.
- Jesus healed countless thousands of people.
- And He is still healing people today.
- And for some it will be a physical healing, but for most it is a spiritual healing.
- The power Jesus used to heal the multitudes and miraculously feed them is still at work in the world.
- Some of you here need physical healing today.
- We are going to pray for that – choose to believe that Jesus can heal you.
- Some of you need Jesus to miraculously multiply your few loaves and fish to meet the needs of your family or others.

- We will pray about that too – believe that Jesus can.
 - All of us have something we need to lay down at Jesus’ feet.
 - The multitudes who came to Jesus knew what their sickness was.
 - Those things we need to lay down at Jesus’ feet are keeping us from living the good life Jesus saved us for (**John 10:10**).
- I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**
- If you are a believer, the abundant life is yours.
 - We live it through faith in Christ and obedience to His Word.
 - But if there is any sin-sickness in us, it will hinder our experience of God and the abundant life.
 - And before you say you don’t have anything to lay at Jesus’ feet, listen to what the apostle John said to believers (**1 John 1:8**).
- If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**
- If you are a believer and you still have a heartbeat, you still have things to lay at Jesus’ feet.
 - You may or may not know what to lay at Jesus’ feet.
 - If you do – then do it.
 - There is nothing you can bring that He doesn’t already know about.
 - And there is nothing you can bring that He didn’t carry with Him to the cross.
 - If you don’t know what to bring – pray this prayer (**Psalms 139:23-24**).
- Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; ²⁴ and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**
- God’s mercy is infinite, and His compassion is endless.
 - And if you bring it and lay it at Jesus’ feet – He will heal you of it.
 - We have nothing to lose and everything to gain.
 - One last Scripture and then I will pray, and the worship team will lead us in one last praise song (**1 Peter 5:6-7**).
- Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.**
- Let’s pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us lay down anything that keeps us from the abundant life. **Pray**
 - Worship Team comes up to play the last song!