

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

RLJ-1939

JOHN S. TORELL

NOVEMBER 26, 2023

PART 41: FEEDING THE MULTITUDE

BACK TO GALILEE

The New Testament writers are sparse when it comes to details about the daily life of Jesus and the disciples. We know there were women in the group, and most likely they helped with food preparation, washing and mending clothing. **Luke 8:1-3**

There were people who certainly supported Jesus financially and Judas was appointed treasurer. **John 12:4-6**

It was common for the disciples to enter a village and purchase food for this group of people. **John 4:8**

Using this information, here is how I envision Jesus and his entourage returning from the coast of the Mediterranean Sea along the mountainous road back to Galilee. Most likely it was a two-day trip with a stop halfway to camp for the night. It is probable they had cooking utensils and some type of bedding for sleep. Jesus traveled like this for some three years and it is possible they used donkeys to pull wagons with supplies.

On his way down toward the Sea of Galilee, Jesus stopped at a hilltop – Matthew calls it a mountain – and sat down to rest. **Matthew 15:29**

When word spread in the surrounding cities of Galilee that Jesus had returned, people came out in droves and carried every sick person to Him. The disciples must have organized a healing line and the people carrying their sick stopped in front of the God-man. The Son of God healed every person brought to Him. **verse 30**

This was like a “spiritual field hospital” as the dumb spoke, the crippled were made whole, the lame walked, and the blind received their sight. **verse 31**

FEEDING THE MULTITUDE

Jesus had compassion on the people coming for a healing touch and to hear Him teach. They had been in the same place for three days and the food supplies were depleted, so Jesus told the disciples to feed the crowd. **verse 32**

Easy enough, right? It is likely that Jesus was testing the disciples because not too long ago He had fed some 15,000 persons supernaturally with leftovers afterwards. **Matthew 14:20**

However, Matthew records that the apostles had no faith whatsoever and asked Jesus where they could get enough bread in an out-of-the-way place to feed such a large crowd. **Matthew 15:33**



Jesus did not scold them; He simply asked how many loaves of bread they had on hand. **verse 34**

Jesus manifested faith in God the Father when He told the people to sit down while He created food for 4,000 men, plus the women and children. **verse 35**

Matthew states there were baskets in the camp and one can imagine Jesus praying over the food, then breaking bread and fishes over baskets that were distributed by the apostles until everyone was full.



Just like before, there were leftovers gathered that amounted to seven baskets after feeding thousands. **verses 36-38**

Once Jesus was done, He walked to the Sea of Galilee and got into a ship that took him to the city of Magdala on the western side of Galilee, most likely to get away from the crowds and to get some rest. **verse 39**

SUMMARY

In the previous sermon, we examined a Canaanite woman who had such great faith in Jesus that no amount of rejection could stop her from pursuing a healing for her daughter until the God-man granted her request. **Matthew 15:28**

As Christians, it doesn't matter what kind of obstacles we face, Jesus is always there and He will respond to our faith. Don't let circumstances erode your faith in God, but learn to stand, and having stood, continue to stand. **Mark 10:27**

If you want to please God, you must approach Him in faith. **Hebrews 11:6**

This was a sermon about the faith placed in Jesus to heal loved ones. People were excited and willing to gather their sick and afflicted and take them to Jesus in some isolated place, expecting the God-man to do something great.

“Let's go and see Jesus. He loves us. Jesus is going to heal you!”

Do you have faith like this in your life? Faith in God will remove physical and spiritual mountains. The choice is yours to believe! **Mark 11:22-26**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?