

**Matthew 15:29-39:** Jesus went on from there and walked beside the Sea of Galilee. And he went up on the mountain and sat down there. <sup>30</sup> And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them, <sup>31</sup> so that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel. <sup>32</sup> Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way." <sup>33</sup> And the disciples said to him, "Where are we to get enough bread in such a desolate place to feed so great a crowd?" <sup>34</sup> And Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish." <sup>35</sup> And directing the crowd to sit down on the ground, <sup>36</sup> he took the seven loaves and the fish, and having given thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>37</sup> And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up seven baskets full of the broken pieces left over. <sup>38</sup> Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. <sup>39</sup> And after sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

**Intro:** Last week, we saw a Canaanite woman come to Jesus, she was considered unclean because of her ethnicity & culture & background, but Jesus used her to illustrate what He's been teaching: the heart matters & Jesus came for all nations – the nations came to Him at His birth, & the Gospel ends with a call to go to the nations. Jesus had compassion on this Canaanite woman (Enemies of God; All should have been killed; Only occurs here in N. T.): **James Boice:** Do not say, "That person will never come to faith" or "That one is too far gone to believe." You do not know that, & it is often the most unlikely persons who come. Who would have expected Saul, that first great persecutor of the Christians, to be converted? Yet he became the great missionary to the Gentiles. John Newton, the converted slave trader, said on one occasion, "I have never despaired of any man since God saved me."

Again today we see that Jesus has compassion on all peoples! And we see His great compassion & love & power again today: Jesus is the Healer! Jesus is the Bread of Life! And Jesus alone is Satisfier of every human soul!

### **1. We See Jesus Healed Many For The Glory Of God**

**Matthew 15:29-31:** Jesus went on from there and walked beside the Sea of Galilee. And he went up on the mountain and sat down there. <sup>30</sup> And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them, <sup>31</sup> so that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel.

**a. Jesus continues His ministry to the Gentiles: Daniel Doriani:** Jesus was last in the region of Tyre and Sidon. He returned to the Sea of Galilee, Matthew says (15:29), without specifying whether he traveled to the western, Jewish side, or to the eastern, primarily Gentile side. But there are three hints that he is in Gentile land. First, the people marvel at Jesus' healing. But as we saw when Jesus fed five thousand Jews, they no longer marveled at Jesus' signs. They devoured his food and moved on, without a word of praise (14:20-21). Second, the crowds "praised the God of Israel" (15:31) – an odd phrase for an Israelite to use, but a sensible one if Gentiles are speaking. Third, Mark tells us that Jesus went "down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis" (Mark 7:31). Decapolis is a Greek (hence Gentile) term meaning "ten cities."

**b. These verses show us the brokenness of the world:** We see so much disease, pain, & suffering here. The world was not supposed to be this way. When sin entered the world, all of this entered the world: the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, & many others! This world is broken because of our sin! **GOSPEL! (Man who murdered wife)**

**c. Jesus came to save, heal, & redeem that which is broken:** Great crowds came to Jesus! Like the Canaanite woman, they know where to go! And He healed them! Jesus made the mute speak; He made the crippled healthy; He made the lame walk; And He made the blind see! Jesus is the healer! He is the God of Psalm 103:

**Psalm 103:1-12:** Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! <sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O

my soul, and forget not all his benefits,<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,<sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.<sup>6</sup> The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.<sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.<sup>8</sup> The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.<sup>9</sup> He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.<sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

**d. Jesus' miracle healings move the people to glorify God: V. 31:** the crowd wondered; the crowd glorified the God of Israel: The crowd is amazed! They've never heard or seen anything like this! They glorified God: they honored & worshiped God & proclaimed His value & worth & greatness & excellence & power & love & beauty!

**e. Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy – the God-Man Messiah – the Savior of the world: Isaiah 29:18-19, 23:** In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see.<sup>19</sup> The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel . . . For when he sees his children, the work of my hands, in his midst, they will sanctify my name; they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob and will stand in awe of the God of Israel.

**Isaiah 35:2-6, 10:** They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.<sup>4</sup> Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;<sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy . . .<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## **2. We See Jesus' Compassion**

**Matthew 15:32:** Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way."

Here, Jesus has compassion on the crowd because they have been without food & are hungry. Compassion is a kind of loving distress or pity for others – a care & tenderness toward others because of their pain & need for help.

**Spurgeon:** This is said of Christ Jesus several times in the New Testament. The original word is a very remarkable one. It is not found in classic Greek. It is not found in the Septuagint. The fact is, it was a word coined by the evangelists themselves. They did not find one in the whole Greek language that suited their purpose, and therefore they had to make one. It is expressive of the deepest emotion; a striving of the bowels - a yearning of the innermost nature with pity . . . I suppose that when our Savior looked upon certain sights, those who watched him closely perceived that his internal agitation was very great, his emotions were very deep, and then his face betrayed it, his eyes gushed like fountains with tears, and you saw that his big heart was ready to burst with pity for the sorrow upon which his eyes were gazing. He was moved with compassion. His whole nature was agitated with commiseration for the sufferers before him.

No one has ever cared so deeply for lost sinners and needy sheep like Jesus Christ! No one has ever loved like Jesus Christ – in thought, word, deed, and feeling. He felt a deep love & compassion.

**Hymn:** There's not a Friend like the lowly Jesus: No, not one! no, not one!; None else could heal all our souls' diseases: No, not one! no, not one!; Jesus knows all about our struggles; He will guide 'til the day is done: There's not a Friend like the lowly Jesus: No, not one! no, not one!

This word for compassion is used 8 times in the N. T., and it always refers to Jesus! He saw the great crowd & had compassion on them! And His compassion led to action! He healed their sick! He loves! He cares about people's needs! He cares about their pains! He loves you, & He cares about your needs & pains & suffering! Do you believe that? Elisabeth Elliot example: Loss of husband, "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so!"

**Brian Davis:** It's not about what you want God to do for you, but do you trust Him in what He's done for you already? The Pharisees, wickedly, were always demanding that Jesus prove Himself to their sinful senses. They always demanded: prove it! prove it! prove it! . . . The evil heart is not content with what God's done . . . The saints can say He's proved it! It's proved! He doesn't need to prove anything else to me! God doesn't need to prove anything else to you! He's proven enough! And we know this because of the cross! The cross is the great expression of His proof! Let the cross be enough proof for you! It must be enough proof for you . . . The cross is proof that I am loved, that I am regarded, that I am considered, that He has compassion on me, that He's had mercy on me, that He's going to bring me to Himself - the cross is enough proof! . . . If your tempted to withhold worship from the LORD because He's withheld something you want, ask yourself: "Is the cross enough proof for me?" Repent and let the cross be enough proof for you . . . If the cross does not quiet your suspicion about God's love for you, nothing will. If the cross does not quiet your suspicion about God's love for you, absolutely nothing will. Because there is no greater way that He could show He loves you. God has already proven His love to you - that He is for you, that He's had compassion on you, and that there's mercy to help you. And He proved it at the cross!

**I sent this to the young lady I'm courting, Eunice, & this was her response:** By the grace of God I will never face His wrath; not now, not tomorrow, not at judgment and not in the life to come. Christ bore the wrath that was meant to be mine. He took my punishment upon Himself. My sins have been washed away by Christ's blood. It is truly finished – past, present & future. God will never turn His back on me. In Christ I am assured of His love forever. It is final. He loves me so. Sure He will discipline me out of his infinite love, but He will never condemn me. He is sanctifying me, making me more like Christ. And one day the work will be complete.

Jesus cares about the big things (salvation!), but notice He also cares about the small things – food, daily provision.

**Our Statement of Faith: The Way Of Salvation:** uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

### **3. The Disciples See An Impossible Problem**

**Matthew 15:33:** And the disciples said to him, "Where are we to get enough bread in such a desolate place to feed so great a crowd?"

You might think: "Don't these disciples ever learn! Didn't Jesus just feed 5,000 men, plus!" They can't! He can!

**Daniel Doriani:** But they have Jesus with them, do they not? They should have known that the power of God is never limited by the means at man's disposal. As Jonathan the friend of David said, "Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few" (1 Sam. 14:6). Sad as it may seem, it does not even occur to the disciples to ask Jesus for aid . . . But above all, we should note the capacity all disciples have to forget God's goodness. We have experienced God's kindness in times past, but we fail to draw the right conclusions from that kindness today. As if they had never before seen Jesus provide, the disciples forget to ask Jesus for relief. We do the same, forgetting to contemplate his power and blessings. So we deprive ourselves of the full benefits of living by the Lord's love and power.

### **4. We See That Jesus Alone Feeds And Satisfies – Jesus Alone Does The Impossible!**

**Matthew 15:34-39:** And Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish." <sup>35</sup> And directing the crowd to sit down on the ground, <sup>36</sup> he took the seven loaves and the fish, and having given thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>37</sup> And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up seven baskets full of the broken pieces left over. <sup>38</sup> Those who ate were

four thousand men, besides women and children. <sup>39</sup> And after sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

**a. Jesus is the only Savior of the whole world:** We've seen Jesus grant crumbs of His all-satisfying bread to a Canaanite woman; we've seen Him heal many in the Decapolis (non-Jewish territory); here again we see Jesus feed the 4,000 plus in this Gentile territory: He's granting His saving teaching and satisfying bread to the nations!

**Verse 37:** And they took up seven baskets full of the broken pieces left over.

**What about the number seven?:** Number of completion; Number of Gentile Nations: **Deuteronomy 7:1:** When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than yourselves . . . .

**Revelation 5:9:** And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation"

**George Murray from All Nations Family:** Out of the 7 billion people in the world, 2 billion have never even heard the name of Jesus. Only 5% of the people that get Biblical training plan on going into missions. Of those 5%, only 9.6% go to the unreached people groups & they receive only 1% of the church's money.

**b. Jesus is the only all satisfying Savior: Verse 37:** And they all ate and were satisfied.

**Luke 1:46-47, 53:** And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior . . . he has filled the hungry with good things . . . ."

- **Exodus 16:4:** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you . . .

- **John 6:32-33:** Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

**John Piper:** One of the reasons God created bread, or created the grain & the water & yeast & fire & human intelligence to make it . . . is so that when Jesus Christ came into the world, He would be able to use the enjoyment of bread & the nourishment of bread as an illustration of what it means to believe on Him & be satisfied with Him . . . Bread exists to help us know what it is like to be satisfied in Jesus . . . The pleasures of warm bread should send our senses & our spirits to Christ as the bread of life. The pleasures of cold water when we're hot & thirsty should send our senses & our spirits to Christ as the living water. The pleasures of light making all other natural beauties visible should send our senses & our spirits to Christ as the true light of the world!

**What are you seeking to satisfy you?** The approval of others; relationships; money; stuff; sex; drugs; career; fame; power; marriage; children? If only I could have \_\_\_\_\_ then I'd be satisfied!

**c. Jesus is the only, more than all satisfying Savior: Verse 37:** And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up seven baskets full of the broken pieces left over.

Jesus not only satisfies; He more than satisfies.

**Ephesians 3:20:** Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us . . .

He is able; He's not only able, but He's able to do what we ask; He's not only able to do what we ask, but He's able

to do what we ask or think; He's not only able to do what we ask or think, but He's able to do all we can ask or think; He's not only able to do all we can ask or think, but He's able to do more than all we can ask or think; He's not only able to do more than all we can ask or think, but He's able to do far more than all we can ask or think; He's not only able to do far more than all we can ask or think, but He's able to do far more abundantly than all we can ask or think!

In life, we are often like little children in a candy store who haven't had dinner yet . . . .

**Jesus is able to satisfy us and more than satisfy us because (1) He Himself is God, and (2) His greatest satisfaction – His more than all satisfying Heavenly Father – turned away from Him on that cross! He was left to starve so that we might be filled! He was left unsatisfied so that we might be abundantly satisfied forever if we will repent and believe in Him and then follow Him in obedience!**

**- Isaiah 53:10-12:** Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. <sup>11</sup> Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup> Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.  
**And He rose up from the dead!**

**Jesus More Than Satisfies  
All His People's Hungry Cries  
And Then He Dies To Rise  
To Become Our Everlasting Prize!**

Behold a great crowd with nothing to eat  
They're without food as if out on the street  
There's not enough wheat, sugar that's sweet  
Or even enough meat for all to eat  
But God in their midst, Who's over all elite  
This miracle once again He'll gladly repeat  
Alone in Himself He's fully complete  
There's not one of your needs that He cannot meet  
His endless resources you'll never deplete  
If you trust in Him, it's always His treat  
All your enemies He'll fully defeat  
And of Him you'll eat to be fully replete (fully satisfied!)  
He'll save you from the worst life on the street  
He Himself will be your delightful meat  
And be to your taste buds the greatest sweet!

They desire being with Christ more than their necessary food  
He's their first priority and to His teaching they're glued  
It's like being in love – all other desires you exclude  
For by this one consuming passion you've been subdued  
Between them and Christ they'll let no other needs intrude  
To hear from their Jesus they've gone out and pursued  
His power and glory by them must be viewed  
For only through Him can their lives be renewed  
By His love and mercy all people's will be wooed  
He's the great God in the flesh we must conclude!

The disciples are helpless to feed the crowd  
Apart from Christ we can do nothing allowed  
But by His grace we give Him praise out loud  
Like the appearance of the glory cloud  
Where all of Israel stood amazed and wowed  
It's the all providing Christ Who died and plowed  
In Him all goodness and power are endowed  
And to Him every knee will eventually be bowed  
He's the only One of whom we can genuinely be proud  
Because He fed the crowd and left us wowed!

His compassions fail not, He sees your every need  
He'll provide for them all at just the right speed  
Your deepest longings He'll satisfy indeed  
And not only this, but He'll also exceed  
Your dreams are too small, they lie and mislead  
His plans are best, so follow His lead  
He's the Savior of the world – the woman's great Seed  
On that cross He died and to save He'd bleed  
But He rose up from the grave and from death He's freed  
Now all His good plans must perfectly proceed  
And if you believe in Him God's Word is agreed  
All His perfect plans for your life will succeed  
Just as His Father from of old decreed!

He more than satisfies every nation  
He's the Good Shepherd – God's incarnation  
Of true salvation He's the foundation  
He saves all people's without discrimination  
None of His plans encounter frustration  
He'll be your all in all at the final consummation  
When you praise and adore Him with eternal admiration!

Christ Jesus Came To Save And Heal  
The Lame, The Blind, The Crippled Ill  
They Walk, They See, They're Healed For Real  
For Jesus Doesn't Money Steal  
Since He's The Healer God's Real Deal  
He Has Compassion And Will Fill  
All The Hungry With His Meal  
The God-Man Is Our Bread And Will  
Satisfy Our Every Thrill  
He Died For Sinners On That Hill  
Then Rose Alive To All Fulfill  
By Faith Alone We're Just And Kneel  
Before Our King The Lamb Ideal  
Upon Us All He's Set His Seal  
His Beauty, Praise, And Love We Feel  
Now Live For Him With Holy Zeal!