



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **Matthew 14:13**

**Now when Jesus heard it,
(death of John the Baptist)
he withdrew from thence
in a boat, to a desert place
apart: and when the
multitudes heard thereof,
they followed him on foot
from the cities.**

- There were
three simple
and natural reasons

why Jesus should
seek to be alone.

- **# 1** He needed rest.
- **# 2** He never recklessly
ran into danger,
- **# 3** And lest he should
share the same fate as John.

- When Jesus heard of it.
(Matthew 14:13)
- What was the motive for his withdrawal:
 - (1) There was a strong emotional attachment by Jesus for John.
 - (2) We remember that Jesus wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.
 - (3) Paul refers to him as “The man Christ Jesus” thus intimating his human nature.
(1 Timothy 2:5)

- The first desire of the sorrowing heart is a mixed one.
 - Seeking both solitude and company;
- Often restlessly changing from the one to the other.
 - This peculiarity we find in "the Man Christ Jesus."
(1 Timothy 2:5)

- The impulse to seek solitude often comes first.
- The broken heart cares to see no one.
- Leave them alone in their grief.
- This is illustrated in two scenes of Christ's life.

- **# 1** When Jesus received the sad news of the violent death of his friend.
- He wanted to be alone.
- He passed across the lake, to the lonely eastern side, away from the pressure of the crowds.
- Silence, separation, are the felt needs of such an hour.

- **# 2 In the case of Gethsemane**,
when Jesus was in
immediate danger,
and overwhelmed
with mental distress.
 - Then he sought
the quiet of the garden.
 - He must be **alone**.
- But, he is **not** entirely alone.
 - **“My Father”**
(Matthew 26:39)

- Now the sorrowing seeks company.
 - The sorrowful heart wants to be alone, and yet cannot bear to be alone,
 - He wants to feel that friends are near; that he can reach them.
 - He must sometimes speak out the sorrow to them, or it would grow unendurable.

- In Jesus
we have the true,
Divine Friend of humanity,

- Of what use is it
to have such a Friend
unless we make
use of Him?

- **“He departed”**
 - **“By ship,
into a desert place apart”**.
(**Matthew 14:13**)
 - **To avoid Herod,**
 - **Not** through fear of death;
- But because **his time** was not yet come:
 - Which may teach us,
that it is lawful
to shun dangers.

- Galilee must have been a place where it was **very difficult to be alone.**
- Galilee was a small country, **only 50 miles** from north to south and **25 miles** from east to west.

- Josephus tells us that in his time within that small area there were 204 towns and villages,
- None with a population of less than 15,000 people.
 - In such a thickly populated area it was not easy to get away from people for any length of time.

- But it was quiet
on the other side of the lake,
and at its widest the lake was only
8 miles wide.
- And it was not difficult
to embark on one of their boats
and seek retirement on the
east side of the lake.
- That is what Jesus did when he
heard of the death of John.

- But he was not to get it.
 - It would be easy to see the boat set sail and to conclude where it was going;
- And the crowds flocked round the top of the lake and were waiting for him at the other side when he arrived.

- **(14) And Jesus went forth.**

- The words imply that our Lord saw the crowds drawing near, and then, **instead of retiring still further, went forward to greet them.**

- The sight of an eager and suffering multitude **never failed to touch Him.**

(Matthew 9:36),

- To **meet** them
and
relieve their sufferings.

- **Mark 6:34** says he was **moved with compassion** because they were as sheep having no shepherd.
- **A shepherd duty is:**
 - Take **care** of a flock.
 - It was his duty to **feed** it;
- To **defend** it from wolves and other wild beasts;
 - To **care** for the young and feeble;
 - To lead it by **green pastures** and **still waters**,

- When Christ says the people were as sheep without a shepherd,
- He means that they had no teachers and guides who cared for them and took pains to instruct them.

- The scribes and Pharisees were haughty and proud,
and cared little for
the common people;
- And when they did attempt
to teach them,
they led them astray.

- They therefore came in great multitudes to him who preached the gospel to the poor, (Matthew 11:5).
- And who was thus the good shepherd. (John 10:14)

- **Matthew 11:4**

**Jesus answered
and said unto them, ..**

- **11:5** The **blind** receive their sight,
and the **lame** walk, the **lepers** are
cleansed, and the **deaf** hear,
the **dead** are raised up,

- **and the poor have
the gospel preached to them.**

- **Luke** tells us that Jesus
"received them,
and spake unto them of
the kingdom of God"
(**Luke 9:11**).
- He received them patiently,
because
"He was moved with pity"
(**Mark 6:34**),
 - And saw in their
rude crowding about Him
the token of their
lack of guides and teachers.

- They seemed to Him not a mob of intrusive sight-seers, but like a huddled mass of untaught sheep.

- Christ's heart felt more lovingly than ours because His eye saw deeper, and His eye saw deeper because His heart felt more lovingly of the wandering souls.

- The feeding of the five thousand was the fullest manifestation of the sovereignty of the Son of Man over the world of nature.
- You may feed at the world's table and remain hungry.
 - But at Christ's table you are filled.
 - Being filled with the fruits of righteousness,...
(Philippians 1:11)

- Philip and Andrew are prominent as speakers, and our Lord puts to Philip the question,
- “Whence shall we buy bread that these may eat?”
(John 6:5)
 - As they both were from the local area it was natural to address the question to them.

- Where do Jesus and the disciples find themselves?
- In "a desert place."
(Matthew 14:13)
- Meaning a place where few people lived.
 - The miracle as to time and place encourages our confidence in Christ in the most trying and destitute situations.
(Hebrews 13:5)

- The disciples requested that He dismiss the multitude that they might buy food in the nearest villages.
- Being themselves in a rush they were met by what must have seemed to them the marvelous calmness of the answer:
- “They need not depart, give ye them to eat.”
(Matthew 14:16)

- Philip's rough estimate was that it would take about two hundred pennyworth of bread. (Matthew 20:2).
- The Greek word for "penny" is denarius.
- One denarius was a day's wage for an unskilled laborer (Matthew 20:2),
- So that two hundred denarii would represent about seven months' wages.

- Then Jesus asks them,
“How many loaves have ye?”
and **Andrew**
replies that they
have found a lad
with five barley loaves
(food of the poor)
and two fishes.
(**Matthew 15:34; John 6:8**)

- “and looking up
to heaven
he gave thanks”
(Matthew 14:19)
- And we are left to wonder,
did anyone
“Thank”
our Lord
for the rich bounty
just received?

- What does this miracle reveal to us?

- It reveals three things.

- (1) It tells us of the compassion of Jesus.
- That is a very wonderful thing.
 - Jesus had come to find peace and quiet and solitude.
 - He might so easily have resented them.
- Was he to have no rest and quiet, no time to himself at all?
 - But our Jesus was not like that.

- (2) In this story we see Jesus witnessing that all gifts are from God.
(James 1:17)
 - He took the food and said a blessing.
- Here we see Jesus showing that it is God's gifts which he brings to men.
 - The grace of gratitude is rare enough towards men; it is rarer still towards God.

- “**and he began to teach them many things.**”
(**Mark 6:34**)

- Thousands were now fed **spiritually** and **physically**.

- Upon departing, what **lessons** would they take with them.

- What **memories** would again and again warm their hearts!

- (3) This miracle informs us of the place of the disciple in the work of Christ.
- The story tells that Jesus gave to the disciples and the disciples gave to the crowd.
- Jesus worked through the hands of his disciples that day, and he still does.

- **This was a time of testing.**
- And **Philip** would find himself tested this day.
 - **“he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”**
(John 6:6)
 - And **Andrew** was tested:
What are they among so many?”
 - And **Jesus** said to them:
“They need not depart; give ye them to eat.”
(John 6:5)

- There is a sense in which every miracle is not merely a wonder of Power,
- But a perplexing wonder of power.
- The finite mind may only gaze into infinite power of the Almighty.
 - An gaze is all we can do.
 - As we are left startled and amazed.

- What wonder of power takes a single loaf of bread and suddenly there appears another loaf by its side.
- Suddenly we are taken back to the dark abyss before creation.

- **“And God Said...”**
(Genesis 1:3)
- We have beheld
an absolute fresh act
of creation
in a moment
and by a word.

- What do we learn regarding cooperation between Jesus and His disciples?
- That the disciple is helpless without his Lord,
- But it is also true that the Lord is helpless without his disciple.

- If Jesus wants something done he has to get a man to do it.
- He needs people through whom he can act, and through whom he can speak.

- It would be easy to be **bothered** and **discouraged** by a task of such magnitude.
- But there is another thing in this story that may **lift up our hearts.**

- These thousands were only representative of the billions who daily feast upon the bounty of Divine providence.

- "Thou openest thine hand,
and satisfiest the desire
of every living thing."
(Psalms 145:15)

- Jesus does not demand from us powers that we do not possess.
- He says to us,
"Come to me as you are; bring to me what you have, and I will use it greatly in my service."
- Little is always much in the hands of Christ.

- In this amazing miracle we are instructed in the glorious ability of Christ to complete the happiness of all that believe and obey.
 - The multitude " did all eat and were filled."
 - Matthew 5:6
Blessed are they
which do hunger
and thirst
after righteousness:
for they shall be filled.

- “and looking up
to heaven
he gave thanks”
(Matthew 14:19)
- And we are left to wonder,
did anyone
“Thank”
our Lord
for the rich bounty
just received?

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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