



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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