

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Mark 7:31-37 Again He went out from the region of Tyre, and came through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of Decapolis.



Decapolis

- East of the Jordan
- A region composed of 10 Greek Cities
- A Gentile Territory

³² They brought to Him one who was deaf and spoke with difficulty, and they implored Him to lay His hand on him. ³³ Jesus took him aside from the crowd, by himself, and put His fingers into his ears, and after spitting, He touched his tongue *with the saliva*; ³⁴ and looking up to heaven with a deep sigh, He said to him, “**Ephphatha!**” that is, “**Be opened!**” ³⁵ And his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was removed, and he *began* speaking plainly. ³⁶ And He gave them orders not to tell anyone; but the more He ordered them, the more widely they continued to proclaim it.

The Gentiles in Decapolis have become heralds of Christ.

³⁷ They were utterly astonished, saying, “He has done all things well; He makes even the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

- The last time the Lord was in the region of Decapolis He sent the demons into a herd of pigs.
- The people asked Him to leave - - now the people are speaking well of Him.

Matthew 15:29-39 Departing from there, Jesus went along by the Sea of Galilee [*Eastern side of the Sea of Galilee to Decapolis*], and having gone up on the mountain, He was sitting there. ³⁰ And large crowds came to Him,

- Large crowds were coming to Him because they were telling everyone about Him.
- The more He ordered them not to say anything, the more widely they continued to proclaim it.
- That's how a church is supposed to grow - you tell people about what you've been taught and how much you've grown.

³⁰ And large crowds came to Him, bringing with them *those who were* lame, crippled, blind, mute, and many others, and they laid them down at His feet; and He healed them. ³¹ So the crowd marveled as they saw the mute speaking, the crippled restored, and the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.

- These Gentiles had organized their lives around what the Lord had for them.
- For three days He taught them doctrine.
- Healed all the sick - they slept on the ground at night.
- They exhausted all the food they brought with them.

These Gentiles are functioning on positive signals.

POD: Don't leave unless the Lord sends you away.

³² And Jesus called His disciples to Him, and said, "I feel compassion for the people,

- **I feel compassion** – **σπλαγχνίζομαι** – **SPLAGCHNIZOMAI** - *To have pity or to feel sympathy.*
 - We have such a compassionate Savior.
 - As our High Priest He can sympathize with our weaknesses.
 - The Lord's emotion is responding to what He sees.
 - He sees they are in need of something and He wants to provide it.
 - They are in need of food, but this crowd is not just a hungry crowd.

"I feel compassion for the people because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat;

The people had exhausted all their personal resources remaining in a place the Lord wanted them to be.

Isn't it the Lord's responsibility to provide for them?

- There was nothing more important to them than what the Lord had for them.
- Nothing more important than being where He was and listening to what He had to say
- They are not just a crowd of hungry people, but a crowd of hungry people who have positive volition.

POD: Our Lord God always provides in grace for those who have positive volition - and that is exactly what He's going to do!

³² And Jesus called His disciples to Him, and said, “I feel compassion for the people, they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.” ³³ The disciples said to Him, “Where would we get so many loaves in *this* desolate place to satisfy such a large crowd?”

Sometimes we are just as spiritually imperceptive to what the Lord is doing as the disciples were.

The Lord always remains patient with us in grace and that will never change.

³⁴ And Jesus said to them, “How many loaves do you have?” And they said, “Seven, and a few small fish.” ³⁵ And He directed the people to sit down on the ground; ³⁶ and He took the seven loaves and the fish; and giving thanks, He broke them and started giving them to the disciples, and the disciples *gave them* to the people. ³⁷ And they all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, seven large baskets full. ³⁸ And those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. ³⁹ And sending away the crowds, Jesus got into the boat and came to the region of Magadan.

What did this miracle teach the disciples?

- It taught them that in the future they would be feeding multitudes of Gentiles – and that required trust in Him.
- It taught them that God’s blessings would be poured out on the Gentiles as well as the Jews.
- It taught them that He is not just the Jewish Messiah, but the Savior of the world.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.