

From the Pastor's Pen

Sitting on the hillside in the warmth of the sun, the vista was beautiful as you could look out over the Sea of Galilee. The water was so calm as it reflected the sun and clouds that it seemed to be looking in a mirror.

As serene as the vista was, that was not what would take your breath away that day!

You see, also in that scene were more than 4,000 people gathered on the hillside waiting for a turn to go before Jesus.

As they came, they brought before him their lame, blind, crippled and those who could not speak. Each in turn were laid at his feet where Jesus, with love, took mercy on them and healed them. As he touched each life, you could hear the family and friends “ooh” and “ahh” in amazement!

I can see the image in my minds' eye of those coming and those moving to the edge of the crowds. I imagine the conversations as they met sounding something like this:

New Arrival: “Hi, this is quite a crowd here, isn't it?”

Veteran: “Yeah, it sure is.”

New Arrival: “Have you seen the Teacher yet?”

Veteran: “Oh, yes, he is amazing! I still can't believe it.”

New Arrival: “Really, how's that?”

Veteran: “Well, we brought our son, who was crippled from birth – now he is running all over the place!”

New Arrival: “Really, how did he do it?”

Veteran: “The Teacher simply placed his hands on him and looked toward heaven and asked the Father to touch our son. The next thing you know, our boy was jumping up and walking!”

New Arrival: “I sure hope he can help us!”

Veteran: “I know if you place him at the feet of Jesus, his life will not be the same. Come to think of it, neither will yours! Surely this Teacher is the Son of God.”

Can you imagine – before it was all over, Jesus was going to work a miracle on behalf of every person there. You see, the Bible tells me that after 3 days of this, he was filled with compassion for the crowd and decided to provide a meal for each person! He had this crowd of more than 4,000 sit down; he took inventory of food and discovered there were just 7 loaves and a few small fish.

Giving thanks, he broke the bread and gave the food to the disciples to pass out to the massive crowd. Each person ate until they were satisfied and when they finished, the disciples picked up 7 baskets full of leftovers!

Each life miraculously cared for!

Here is the point I want to make: you have to come before Jesus in order to receive the blessings of the Master!

Let me ask you – what's your 20? Are you at the feet of Jesus?

Matthew 15:32

Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people..."

See You in Church!

Pastor Tenney