

AN UNEXPECTED MINISTRY
(Matthew 15:29-39)

- I. The PLACE (Matt. 15:29)
 - A. The Lord DEPARTED “from there” (see 15:21ff)
 - B. Went to the SHORE of the Sea of Galilee (cf. Mk. 7:31 - 8:10)
 - 1. Territory where He FREED two DEMONIACS (Mt. 8:28-34)
 - 2. Populated almost exclusively by GENTILES

- II. Ministry to the MULTITUDES (Matt. 15:30-31)
 - A. LARGE CROWDS came to Jesus as He sat on the mountain
 - B. They brought MANY of the AFFLICTED
 - 1. Most of them with PERMANENT DISABILITIES
 - 2. They CAST them at His FEET (cf. 1 Pet. 5:7)
 - C. He HEALED them INSTANTLY and RESTORED them COMPLETELY
 - D. The crowd recognized Jesus’ POWER as DIVINE, and “GLORIFIED the GOD of ISRAEL”
 - E. They STAYED with Jesus for THREE DAYS (v. 32)

III. Involving the DISCIPLES (Matt. 15:32-38)

- A. Jesus expressed great COMPASSION for them (15:32)
 - 1. Their SPIRITUAL needs had ETERNAL consequences
 - 2. Their PHYSICAL afflictions had LIFELONG effects
 - 3. Their DAILY provision had IMMEDIATE effect
- B. His disciples wondered WHERE sufficient FOOD could be obtained (15:33; cf. 14:15-21)
 - 1. Possibly from simple UNBELIEF
 - 2. More likely HESITANT because of the crowd's RESPONSE the last time (cf. Jn. 6:15)
 - 3. Probably never CONSIDERED He'd do the same for GENTILES
- C. Jesus asked them HOW MUCH food THEY had (15:34)
 - 1. They had SEVEN LOAVES and A FEW small fish
 - 2. They BROUGHT the food to JESUS
- D. Jesus GAVE THANKS, began BREAKING the food for the DISCIPLES to distribute (15:35-37)
 - 1. OVER 4000 ate and were SATISFIED
 - 2. Left-overs filled SEVEN LARGE BASKETS
- E. Jesus LEFT the region