

Luke 6:17-23 NKJV

17 And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, 18 as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. 19 And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.

20 Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said:

“ Blessed are you poor,

For yours is the kingdom of God.

21 Blessed are you who hunger now,

For you shall be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now,

For you shall laugh.

22 Blessed are you when men hate you,

And when they exclude you,

And revile you, and cast out your name as evil,

For the Son of Man's sake.

23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy!

For indeed your reward is great in heaven,

For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.

Let's pray:

You've heard of the Sermon on the Mount as found in Matthew 5-7. Welcome to the Sermon on the Plain.

There are two schools of thought about these two passages. Some scholars think Christ preached this sermon at some other time and place as there are other instances of Christ's preaching the same things at different times; others think this sermon is only Luke's abridgement of the Sermon on the Mount. The beginning and the conclusion are much the same and the story of the healing of the centurion's servant follows both recordings. Regardless, welcome to the Sermon on the Plain.

Jesus had just spent a night in prayer alone in the mountain and had chosen those twelve men that would be His disciples, the twelve apostles. Verse 17 tells us *'He came down with them...'* and now we find Him surrounded by a variety of people:

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So we find Jesus surrounded by:

-Them = the twelve [17 *And He came down with them*]

-A crowd of His disciples = pupils, learners [17 *and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples*]

-A great multitude of people = [17 *and a great multitude of people who came to hear Him and be healed*]

-Those tormented with unclean spirits

Them, a crowd, a multitude, and those!

As my grandmother used to say *'there was a dog there from every part of the town.'*

We have discovered several times in our study of the Gospel of St. Luke, and it bears mentioning again, that the Son of God wasn't interested in forming some small Gospel Club and gathering together alone with His chosen few to the exclusion of the *'crowd, multitude, and those'* we see mentioned in this passage' and neither should we! Jesus likes to mix it up a bit! He likes to get his hands dirty.

This thriving mass of people had traveled from *'all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon.'*

They were different kinds of people who came from different kinds of places. And verse 19 tells us that from Jesus the Christ, who is incapable of showing favoritism to the greatest of those gathered or disdain to the least, ***'power went out from Him and healed them all.'*** WOW!

This is one of those verses that is really hard to read and simply say 'WOW' and move on from. We certainly can't neglect to remember the prophetic words of Isaiah which Jesus repeated in **Luke 4:18-19** concerning His ministry:

18 " *The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;*
19 *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*

Those were not just a bunch of hopeful words; they identified Jesus Christ's passion and purpose. We serve a **LIVING SAVIOUR** who is well able and willing and in fact is indeed intersecting people's lives with the Gospel message of **FREEDOM** from bondage.

Jesus is not simply a flannel-graph story relegated for Sunday School; an interesting Bible study; an inspirational painting on a wall in your office; a finely honed doctrine to be studied in Seminary class; or a fancy song we like to sing. Jesus is alive and He is moving outside of the limitations man seems to like to try and hamper Him with.

So He is surrounded by '**them, a crowd, a multitude, and those**' and He is doing what He does best: allowing power to go out from Him and healing them all! This shouldn't surprise us! But does it?

EX: 'You know me; I always be like this!'

So Jesus is here filled with passion and purpose and preparing to deliver the Sermon on the Plain. Yet there is another part to the equation here we would do well to spend some time on. Verse 19 tells us '*and the whole multitude sought to touch Him.*'

They sought to touch Jesus! '*The whole multitude*' meaning '*them, a crowd, a multitude, and those.*'

They were hungry! It wasn't enough to simply be there and get the t-shirt. They desired to get their hands on Him, to reach out and touch Him, and they did.

I have a question for you? Is that you this morning? Are you trying to touch Jesus? Are you hungry? Are you seeking Him? Oh I know you might say 'Well, that's different. Jesus was actually there. Of course I would be hungry if I was in a crowd with Him and He was right there!'

Matthew 18:20 *'For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.'*

The presence of Jesus Christ is here in this place and He wants to be close to you. How do you feel about that? Is the feeling mutual?

*I loved Lee's message last Sunday morning didn't you? **Intimacy with the Lord!** Your love is better than wine; better than my television; better than my skateboard; better than my bicycle; better than my _____.'

[I'm certain some of us were challenged by Lee's style but surely we didn't miss the substance of what he was communicating from God's Word, did we?]

The whole multitude sought to touch Jesus! I wonder what that would look like this morning, if this 'whole multitude,' including *'them, a crowd, a multitude, and those'* were zeroed in on nothing else but seeking to touch Jesus? A regular feeding frenzy huh?

'Katy bar the door!' [which means 'watch out' and comes from a poem published in 1894 "When Lide Married Him" by James Whitcomb Riley]

I examined the words 'sought' and 'touch' from this verse and here is what Strong's Concordance revealed the original root of these words to be:

Sought =

1. to seek in order to find
 - a. to seek a thing
 - b. to seek [in order to find out] by thinking, meditating, reasoning, to enquire into
 - c. to seek after, seek for, aim at, strive after
2. to seek i.e. require, demand
 - a. to crave, demand something from someone

Touch =

1. to fasten one's self to, adhere to, cling to
 - a. to touch

They craved to cling to Jesus!

EX: It's like the old Handi-Wrap commercial *'You aint got a thing if you aint got that cling!'*

In the multitude of people gathered there on the plain there were probably all types of persons and personalities: introverts, extroverts, loud, quiet, boisterous, and shy. It stands to reason that in a crowd as large as this multitude there was certainly 'a dog from every part of the town.' And yet 'the whole multitude' craved to cling to Jesus!

I wonder what that looked like.

Here might be a quiet person's exhibition of their craving: ----

Here might be a loud person's exhibition of their craving: ----

You fill in the blank with your own personality or approach; it really doesn't matter what it is to anybody except to you! The real question is DO YOU CRAVE TO CLING?

Mark 10:46-52 Blind Bartimaeus

Mark 5:24-34 Woman w/ the issue of blood

It is hard to argue against results isn't it? They were craving to cling and when they did '*power went out from Him and healed them all.*'

Where do you see yourself in this story this morning? Are you one of the:

-Them = the twelve [17 *And He came down with them*]

-A crowd of His disciples = pupils, learners [17 *and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples*]

-A great multitude of people = [17 *and a great multitude of people who came to hear Him and be healed*]

-Those tormented with unclean spirits

Maybe you are Blind Bartimaeus or maybe you the woman who has had an issue you have been dealing with for 12 years and you're spent. Empty. Dried up! You're done.

Or maybe you have been part of the crowd that would try to subdue Bartimaeus' craving to cling. Just religious enough to be dangerous to others and, oh by the way, to your self! Those who prevent others actually most often end up preventing themselves!

It doesn't matter you know. Remember verse 19 informs us that *'the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.'*

If you crave to cling, Jesus desires to deliver and make you whole!

Jesus said as recorded in the Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew 5:6** *'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.'*

Are you hungry? Do you crave to cling?

Prayer:

Next week: Jesus was interested in the multitudes touching Him, this is clear. However, He was also interested in teaching them as well. The multitude sought to touch Jesus and Jesus sought to teach the multitude.

Touching isn't the entire experience in and of it's self. Teaching is required to grow.