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Church in Regina

Church Pursuit & Fellowship

FROM REJECTION TO GLORY (1)

As we have pointed out previously, Matthew is a book that reveals the kingdom. Chapters 1 through 7 may be considered as the first section of the book, with chapters 5 through 7 being a definition or description of the kingdom. Beginning with chapter 8 and continuing through chapter 12, Matthew presents many cases that illustrate the genuine kingdom life. The kingdom people were once lepers, but they have been cleansed. Now they are people of faith in Christ who enjoy Christ as everything—as the feast, the Bridegroom, the new garment, the new wineskin, the new wine, the rest, the present David, the greater Jonah, and the greater Solomon. By these illustrations we can realize that the Lord Jesus is everything to the kingdom people. He is also the sign. The kingdom people always bear the sign of the crucified, buried, resurrected, and reigning Christ.

When we read Matthew 8—12, we must have an overall view. If we simply read it paragraph by paragraph, we will receive little revelation. At best, we will read some stories. The case of the cleansing of the leper will simply be a story. In order to understand these five chapters, we need revelation and enlightenment. If we see the vision and have an overall view, we will realize that these five chapters are a section showing us the real kingdom life.

Scripture Readings:

Mat 13:53-57 - Rejection by Religion

- (53) And when Jesus had finished these parables, He departed from there.
- (54) And He came into His own country and taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, Where did this man get this wisdom and these works of power?
- (55) Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?
- (56) And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?
- (57) And they were stumbled because of Him. But Jesus said to them, A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house.

Mat 14:1, 10, 12-13 – Rejection by Politics

- (1) At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report concerning Jesus,
- (10) And he sent men and beheaded John in the prison.
- (12) And his disciples came and took the corpse and buried it; and they came and reported the matter to Jesus.
- (13) And when Jesus heard this, He withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place privately. And when the crowds heard of it, they followed Him on foot from the cities.

Mat 14:15-21 – A life in the Wilderness

- (15) Now when evening fell, the disciples came to Him, saying, This place is deserted and the hour is already late. Send the crowds away that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.
- (16) But Jesus said to them, They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.
- (17) And they said to Him, We do not have anything here except five loaves and two fish.
- (18) And He said, Bring them here to Me.
- (19) And after commanding the crowds to recline on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples to the crowds.
- (20) And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve handbaskets full.
- (21) And those who ate were about five thousand men, apart from women and children.

Mat 14:23-32 – A way on the stormy sea

- (23) And after He sent the crowds away, He went up to the mountain privately to pray. And when night fell, He was there alone.
- (24) Now the boat was already in the midst of the sea, being battered by the waves, for the wind was contrary.
- (25) And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea.
- (26) And the disciples, seeing Him walking on the sea, were startled, saying, It is a ghost! And they cried out for fear.
- (27) But immediately Jesus talked to them, saying, Take courage. It is I. Do not be afraid.
- (28) And Peter answered Him and said, Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.

- (29) And He said, Come. And Peter, coming down from the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.
- (30) But seeing the strong wind, he became frightened; and as he began to sink, he cried out, saying, Lord, save me!
- (31) And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him and said to him, You of little faith, why did you doubt?
- (32) And when they got up into the boat, the wind ceased.

Mat 15:32-38

- (32) And Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, I am moved with compassion for the crowd, because for three days now they have remained with Me and they do not have anything to eat. And I am not willing to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.
- (33) And the disciples said to Him, Where can we get so many loaves in this desolate place to satisfy so great a crowd?
- (34) And Jesus said to them, How many loaves do you have? And they said, Seven, and a few small fish.
- (35) And after He commanded the crowd to recline on the ground,
- (36) He took the seven loaves and the fish, and giving thanks, He broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples to the crowds.
- (37) And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, seven baskets full.
- (38) And those who ate were four thousand men, apart from women and children.

Mat 17:1-8

- (1) And after six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and brought them up to a high mountain privately.
- (2) And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as the light.
- (3) And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with Him.
- (4) And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You are willing, I will make three tents here, one for You and one for Moses and one for Elijah.
- (5) While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is My Son, the Beloved, in whom I have found My delight. Hear Him!
- (6) And when the disciples heard this, they fell on their face and were greatly frightened.
- (7) And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, Arise, and do not be afraid.
- (8) And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone.