

This Is Your Newsletter

Briefly, this is a modest effort made to better relay to my readers what God gives me to say. God gives the Message; I try, always by the grace of God, to relay it to you in the best way I can. There is no rigid schedule of publication for Kingdom Herald; and it will not be a fancy, gussied up forum – I don't have the expertise for that. Actually it will be a continuation of what I have been doing except it will be in newsletter format for more editorial freedom. I promise to strive for transparency and I'll not be devious, hiding a devil's face behind an angelic mask. What you see is what you get. And I pray it will be a blessing.

AJS

Jesus Feeding a Multitude

Text Ref. 1

“As Jesus taught them, the afternoon sun drifted imperceptibly into evening shadows and the realization soon came on the disciples that the people were far from home and were hungry. They mentioned it to Jesus.

” ‘Give ye them to eat,’ Jesus said to the disciples. If they had fully known Jesus they would have realized, when He said, ‘Give ye them to eat,’ that, somehow, they could do it. The Master never tells a person to do what he cannot do; but His followers were yet dull of understanding.” (Txbk. Lesson Ten)

Comment (a) on Text Ref. 24

Jesus of course proceeded to feed the multitude from the meager five loaves and two fish that were found in the crowd. In the following chart we can see the process employed by Jesus in feeding the multitude in the desert. (Mat. 14.14-21) Jesus was in truth God, but in His role as the human Son of God He was subject to the Father. Jesus could do

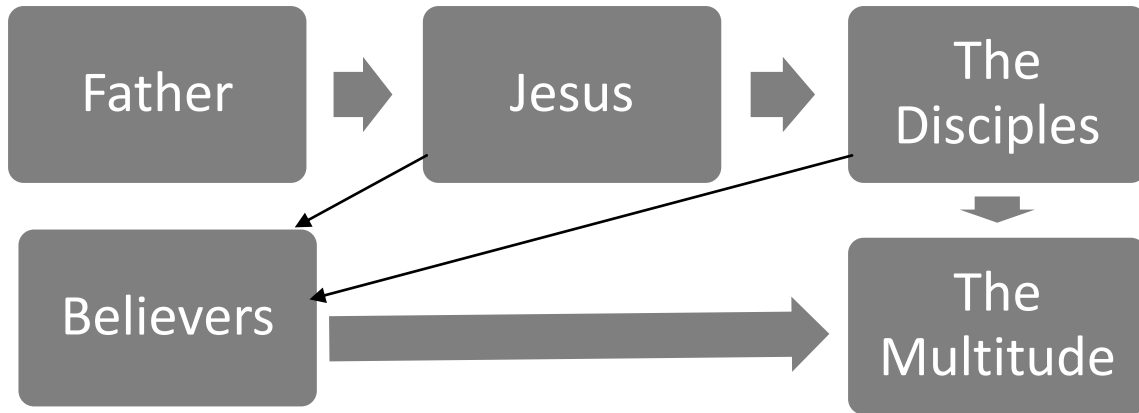
nothing without the Father. He came to earth to be a human among humans. He did not come to be merely divine: that would have not accomplished His mission.

Note the progression in the feeding of the multitude by Jesus: The Father provided the food, Jesus gave it to the apostles who then gave it to the people, believers and unbelievers alike.. In today's worship Jesus also gives the food to the disciples (those who preach and teach the Word), but often He deals directly with the individual worshiper. This is represented by the topmost thin arrow. The worshiper (believer) then gives the food (Word of God) to the multitude (believers and unbelievers). He or she gives a word of prophecy (usually not predictive – that is overplayed by the spiritually unlearned) to the former group and an appeal to be saved to the latter. This is represented by the broad arrow at the bottom of the diagram.

We see that in the New Testament Church God does not speak only to His ministers of the Word; He speaks also to the laypersons who get close to Him so they can hear what He has to say to them. This by no means does away with the evangelists and pastors and teachers whom God has called to their respective tasks, nevertheless it gives the average worshiper access to close communion with the Spirit of God. It is a priceless relationship that the average worshiper greatly needs and which too many are

overlooking in their search for more of the material things the world has to offer.

Study the chart closely to see where you fit into God's scheme of things.



Jesus Heals a Nobleman's Son

Mat. 4:12-17; Mark 1:14, 15; John 4:43-54.

"After Jesus left Sychar He went directly into Galilee where He taught in various synagogues, 'being glorified of all.' While He was in Cana Jesus was accosted by a certain nobleman. This man wanted Jesus to heal his son who was critically ill. 'Unless I perform miracles for you,' Jesus said to the nobleman, 'you won't believe.' This remark, which was not a severe rebuke but rather a statement of fact, was not addressed solely to the nobleman. It was directed to all the people.

"'Sir, come down,' the distraught father cried, 'ere my child die!'

"'Go thy way,' Jesus replied with singular calm, thy son liveth.' Such a positive word this was! So assured and assuring, coming from this calm and confident Person. Jesus was certainly the one sure Rock these people could cling to in the midst of their changing and uncertain fortunes. But the tense is in error; it is not Jesus *was* the Rock. He *is*, now, today, our one sure Rock to which we are clinging as though our lives depended on Him. And they surely do." (Txbk. Lesson Eight)

You will note that Jesus never seemed to lose His "cool." Perhaps He never lost His air of calm assurance until His hour of Passion in Gethsemane and on Calvary. There He was a human losing His God because of sin. His beloved Father had to withdraw from Him because of the sins of mankind He had taken on Himself.

Because of Jesus' unflinching and amazing ability to heal whether directly or by remote command, the nobleman and his entire household believed. By what was certainly a tragic situation in their lives an entire family was brought to Christ.

With the superior knowledge we have today, we should know deep down in our gut that God is engineering whatever is happening to us. We have been taught enough, we have read enough and experienced enough with this calm, unflappable Man, to KNOW that happy endings are not just in fairy tales – they are real, they are occurring in our lives, if we just hold on as long as God tells us to hold on. God will take us through. We simply have to wait and believe and submit to His will.

Now we are reasoning adults and we don't buy the myth that says that when we trust God, we will never experience suffering or poverty or distress of any kind; that is unquestionably the stuff of fairy tales and misguided Christians. We have to know the dark side of life to appreciate the bright sunlight when it, at long last ("after ye have suffered a while"), beams down on us from God's heaven. We have seen the gloom of night and we have known that no night in this life lasts forever.

When the sun is hidden by the dark foreboding clouds, we know from experience that it has never ceased shining and soon God will direct its rays to pierce the gloom overhead and give us the light and life and happiness we need.