

## (15) Multitudes Healed (Matt. 12:15-21; Mk. 3:7-12; Lk. 6:17-19)

1. This episode bears more content than passing observations might allow.
  - a. The synoptic gospels are remarkably different in what they record.
  - b. The particular episode they describe is likely typical of many such episodes throughout the Galilean ministry.
  - c. The principles contained in this episode establish context for subsequent episodes.
2. Matthew's account.
  - a. The episode begins with a "withdrawal" (Mt. 12:15a). ἀναχωρέω *anachōreō* <sup>#402</sup><sub>14x</sub>. Already studied in the "escape" to Egypt (Mt. 2:14).
  - b. Many followed, and all were healed (Mt. 12:15b). Their healing caused them to know Jesus as the Christ.
    - 1) Immediate context will identify this crowd as mainly gentile (Mt. 12:18,21).
    - 2) Mark's parallel specifically identifies Idumeans, Tyrians, and Sidonians (Mk. 3:8).
    - 3) Just as in the case of the Samaritan woman, and the men of the Samaritan town, Jewish opposition is contrasted with Gentile recognition (Jn. 4:42).
    - 4) These Gentiles are warned to keep their testimony quiet (Mt. 12:16).
  - c. Matthew's burden is to record this event and detail the Old Testament fulfillment (Mt. 12:17-21 cf. Isa. 42:1-4).
    - 1) Just as with the Isa. 61:1-3 fulfillment, there is a distinction which must be observed between First Advent and Second Advent.
    - 2) The Lord's First Advent ministry to the Gentiles was rather limited and anticipated His future Second Advent fulfillment of this Isa. 42:1-4.
3. Mark's account.
  - a. Mark also terms this event as a "withdrawal" (Mk. 3:7).
  - b. Mark specifies the Gentile crowds (Mk. 3:8).
  - c. Mark also specifies how difficult it was becoming to arrange the logistical assistance for Jesus' travels, and security considerations (Mk. 3:9-10).
  - d. Mark records how many of the healings were actually demonic expulsions (Mk. 3:11).
  - e. The demons were also admonished to keep His identity quiet (Mk. 3:12).
4. Luke's account.
  - a. The setting in Luke is a stage-setting for the Sermon on the Mount (Lk. 6:17-19 cf. vv.20-49).
  - b. The conditions are similar to Mark's record.
    - 1) Primarily a Gentile audience (Lk. 6:17).
    - 2) Healings and demon expulsions (Lk. 6:18).
    - 3) Overcrowding circumstances (Lk. 6:19).