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 anachōrēō. 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).

   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).