

Coach House Church

BEACONS

7TH APRIL 2020

JESUS WELCOMED THEM

LUKE 9:11

“When the crowds learned it, they followed Him; and He welcomed them and spoke to them of the Kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing.”

Jesus and his disciples were involved in a busy time of ministry. Jesus felt that it was necessary at this time for both Himself and His disciples to have a time of rest from ministry, and so they withdrew to the nearby town of Bethsaida, which was somewhere on the northern shore of the Lake of Galilee.

However, the hoped-for rest was not to be because the crowds that had been following Jesus, discovered where He was and made a beeline for Him! Jesus was not upset by this; we're told that He welcomed the people, spoke to them of the Kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

This is one of the characteristics of Jesus: He never turned people away. We're told that He welcomed them. He was always ready to receive those who came to Him. He also knew what they needed. He knew that they needed God in their lives; and so, He spoke to them about God's Kingdom. He would have told them, I expect, about the reign of God in their hearts – that is, their need of this. It was their first and most important need. God's Kingdom starts in our hearts. It must start here because the human heart is where all the issues of life spring from. God's Kingdom works from the inside out, not from the outside in.

After this we're told that Jesus healed the sick, and He did not miss one. I believe that at this point Jesus was prophetically showing them that God's Kingdom would eventually include the healing of the natural world too. We see this in Paul's letter to the Romans, chapter 8, verses 18 through 23. But it had to start in their hearts. And it is just the same for us too.

that God's Kingdom would eventually include the healing of the natural world too

We need Jesus in our hearts; actually, He is the King of God's Kingdom. There in Bethsaida they were being addressed by God's anointed King – the Messiah, the King - only they didn't know it.

We are beset by many problems in our world today. Even the natural disasters that shock us are down to the fact that our first parents, Adam and Eve, rejected God's Kingdom and bought down His curse upon our world. Yet He longs to redeem us and it. This He has made provision for, by sending His Anointed King, Jesus (Yeshua) to die on the cross of Calvary, becoming a curse for us (Galatians 3:13), to redeem us from the curse of the Law.

Back there in Bethsaida we're told that Jesus welcomed (tired as He may have been) that crowd when they came to Him.

He's just the same now. He welcomes all who come to Him. It doesn't matter who you are or what you've done. In fact, the Apostle Paul wrote that He, Jesus, can save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him. (Hebrews 7:25).

Of course, Jesus isn't physically present on Earth now, as He was back then. But that is not an obstacle. Just come to Him in faith – and faith is pleasing to God – and Jesus will receive you. He will enter your heart by the Holy Spirit, and His Kingdom will be established there. And the rest is future glory!

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You that You were welcoming to those people back there in Bethsaida. And, Lord, we thank You that You are just as welcoming now to those who would seek You. Please incline our hearts to seek You; and please establish Your Kingdom in our hearts. Amen.



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