

HEALING AND FEEDING, MARK 2:13-17

Let us go to Mark, the second chapter, verses thirteen through seventeen for our spiritual thoughts for the day.

And he went forth again by the sea side; and all the multitude resorted unto him, and he taught them. And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him. And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him. And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Mark 2:13-17).

We see a beautiful Principle here. Jesus fed them spiritually and ministered unto them spiritually before He fed them naturally and met their natural needs. Sometimes we meet folk in our generation that are more concerned about the natural than the spiritual. And they say, “Why has God not answered my prayer? Why has God not done this? Why has He not done that?” And it is always something that relates in the natural realm. Jesus gave us a promise that if we would seek the kingdom of God first, all these other things would be added, so we see on this occasion that same Principle in operation. Jesus taught them of His Word and He taught them of repentance and the Bible said here by His own testimony that He had made them whole and that He had led them to repentance, so He administered to their needs first, spiritually, then their natural needs were ministered to after that.

So sometimes when people cannot see the ministry of Jesus in the spirit and soul, they look at the individual as these Pharisees did on this occasion and said these are the same people. Why is Jesus eating with these publicans and sinners? But what they did not know, and what they could not see that they had sought the Kingdom of God first and there had been a change inside of them and that they had become whole inside by the words and by the teachings and by the

ministry of Jesus presenting the spiritual kingdom first and then the natural needs were taken care of. So, beloved, regardless of what our needs are naturally, if we would seek the Kingdom of God first, if we will put spiritual things first, and we will let Jesus Christ make us whole, as both spirit, soul, and body, then He will minister to our natural needs, whether we need food, whether we need a house, whether we need clothing, whether we need this or that. That is all irrelevant. That will follow. Jesus will see to that. He is not unmindful of that. He will provide for that. He will plan for that. But His Divine Purpose, beloved, is that we should seek His Spiritual Kingdom first and that we should be made whole first.

It is just a beautiful Principle here. It is a promise. It is a Principle that you can stand upon in a time of need. If you are wanting God to do something for you in the natural realm, seek the Kingdom of God first. Seek spiritual Truth first. Seek His Word first. Seek that which has to do with His spiritual Kingdom because Jesus announced that His Kingdom, first, was not of this world, but it was a spiritual Kingdom, and if we would seek that Kingdom of Righteousness and Joy in the Holy Ghost, that these other things would be added. Again, in Luke, the fifth chapter, in verses one through nine, we find the same divine Principle in operation again.

And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: (Luke 5:1-9).

So we see the same Principle again. First Jesus was not concerned that they had been fishing

all night and had not caught a single fish. He was not upset. He was not excited. He was not anxious. That was just not in the picture yet because the spiritual kingdom was first. The spiritual kingdom was in the picture. So Jesus converted the boat into a pulpit and He began to teach and reveal the Word of God and to meet the needs of their spirit and souls by feeding them. Seek ye the kingdom of God first with them and after that, then Jesus was mindful of the natural things.

And Peter had not said a word. Peter had not complained. Peter was so excited, probably, by the Word that he had forgotten all about the fact that he had been fishing all night and had not caught a fish. But Jesus was mindful, he knew what had been happening, but he was not concerned. He put the spiritual above the natural. And when you get the proper order, beloved, then you will find God moving in a delightful, powerful way in your heart and in your life. So Jesus said, "Simon, launch out into the deep and let your net down." And Peter said, in so many words, "I really do not have much faith because I have been out there all night, and I know there is not a fish out there." But Jesus could have told him and was telling him in so many words, "But you were not seeking the Kingdom of God first. I had never preached in your boat before. Your boat had never been anointed and made into a pulpit before. Your boat had never been filled with the Word of God." Even the fish will flock to a boat that is anointed.

So remember that, beloved, if you are an anointed boat, if you are an anointed vessel for Jesus Christ, the fish will flock to you because even the fish like anointed things. So He launched out, pushed His boat out and the Word of God says here that they got so many fish that even those that came to help, their boats all began to sink. And what did Peter do? Fell down at Jesus' knees and began to repent. Said, "Depart from me. I am a sinful man." What did he mean? "I am a man of unbelief. I did not believe Your Word. I did not believe in the Power and the Anointing of that Word in my vessel that I could do this."

So, likewise, a lot of times, beloved, we think that spiritually. We cannot win anybody for the LORD, but if you get the LORD in your vessel in your heart and you get His anointed Word there, He will help you to win the fishes. They will be attracted to your vessel. Let us pray.

Father, we thank You for Your words of Light and Power and Life today. And we pray that You will quicken this Word, quicken this spiritual Principle into the hearts of people today that they might seek the Kingdom of God first, put the spiritual things first that they might inherit, LORD, the natural things that You would desire for them to have. In Jesus' Precious Name. Amen. Ɔ