

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (*1 Cor. 1.18*).

Edifying the Body of Christ (*Eph. 4.10-16*)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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Message
of
Jesus Christ

A Crowd at the Door!

Pews had spread rapidly! The time had come for Jesus to be known, time for Him to preach and minister to the people.

And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils.

And all the city was gathered together at the door.

And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him (Mk 1.32-34).

And again he entered into Capernaum after *some* days; and it was noised that he was in the house.

And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive *them*, **no, not so much as about the door**: and he preached the word unto them (Mk 2.1, 2).

Some in the crowd, especially His chosen disciples, as well as many others, sensed something drawing them. Yes, something drawing, pulling them closer . . . This pull was strong, irresistible, answering a hunger in their souls.

Word spread quickly that miracles were happening! The diseased were healed; the paralyzed and maimed restored; the demoniacs set free; Jesus had even told some, "Your sins are forgiven." Could this be the Messiah? Oh! If only . . .

There were the throngs aware of their physical needs: their illnesses, diseases, their maimed and paralyzed conditions that were so much with them – paramount in their minds. The needs of those at the door were many and varied: forgiveness, salvation, instruction, guidance, healing, deliverance . . . They hurt . . . oh, the agony, the demonic control . . . They were desperate. Jesus could help them; they would go to Him.

"Who are you following?"

"Jesus!"

"Who? – **Who is Jesus?**"

"The Healer! The Prophet!"

"Some think He is the Messiah!"

"Come on! He will touch you; He will heal you!"

Jesus Christ is waiting with His arms outstretched for you to press into Him. He is there for you. He is saying to the crowd at the door, "Come! 'Come unto me . . .' Press your way in – press – press into Me. Leave your burdens and receive all that I am – for you. Surrender your life to me. I will fill your heart with My Spirit, My thoughts, My ways. Dwell in Me. I am your every provision. Come! Know My glory as you walk in My Spirit and My will."

Let us gather at the door that opens to Jesus. Let us press to get through the crowd and into His presence, into Him. You want to see Jesus, to experience the wonder of His glory? You must

Press into Him,

Follow Him, and

Serve Him!

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

The crowd followed Jesus. Each longed for something from Him, something only Jesus could do. They gathered at the door.

If this were happening in the time in which we are now living, would you be in the **Crowd at the Door**? Is your need that of physical healing of an illness, disease, or handicap? Or is there a need for salvation? Would you go to Jesus for the needs of your soul? Is there a longing to be in Jesus' presence, to really know Him? Is your need such that you would be willing to press through the crowd to reach Jesus?

Following are the accounts of a few of those who did reach Jesus and received from Him more than they expected.

A Man Sick with Palsy: The friends carrying the man with palsy were unable to press through the crowd at the door, but they refused to give up. So strong was their faith in Jesus that they were willing to climb onto the roof – carrying a man on his bed! – making a way to Jesus! They pressed on and succeeded.

The man with palsy was healed – and his sins forgiven (Mk 2.3-12).

When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

A demon-possessed man was delivered of a legion of unclean spirits that Jesus sent into a herd of swine – and the man received a calling from the Lord to “Go . . . tell . . .” (Mk 5.1-20). He received more than he asked or expected!

... he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him.

Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all [men] did marvel (Mk 5.18b-20).

His evangelistic work in his city had an impact – no doubt on the people who, out of fear, asked Jesus to leave their area!

Zacchaeus, a man of “little stature,” had a desire “to see Jesus who [He] was (Lk 19.3).” May we have an intense desire to see Jesus – Who He really is! Because Zacchaeus was short, he climbed a tree that he might see Jesus over the crowd around him – but Jesus called him down from the tree and went to his house to eat with him. As a result, Zacchaeus did see Who Jesus was; his heart was changed and he received salvation that day (Lk 19.1-9).

And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore [him] fourfold.

And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsoomuch as he also is a son of Abraham (Lk 19.8, 9).

These men did receive more than they asked or expected. It shows us that when we “see” Jesus, when we reach out to Him, putting ourselves into His hands, surrendering our lives to Him, living for Him – we will receive more than we could ask or think. It takes effort to press through the “crowd” that stands between Jesus and us. **Be determined** not to let anything prevent you from reaching Jesus.

As Jesus was on the way to heal the daughter of Jairus, the people thronged Him (Mk 5.24-34). One woman in the crowd around Jesus was desperate. She had had an issue of blood for twelve years and had suffered at the hands of many physicians, had spent all that she had, and had grown only worse (vv 25, 26).

I imagine her being on the outskirts of the throng of people following Jesus. She was probably weak from the loss of blood and the twelve years of illness, enduring “treatment” by one physician after another. Reaching Jesus through that crowd must have seemed hopeless, but what did she have to return to? She must reach Jesus! No one else could help her. She **pressed** her way past one person, then another, and another, and . . . More than once there was jostling – embarrassing, no doubt, but she did not have time to think of embarrassment; she must go on and on and . . .

Faith was **strong** in her. She knew – yes, she knew, “For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole” (Mk 5.28). Now she could see Him; maybe there was enough space to get her arm through – if only, a little more – just a touch! Yes! Oh! The flood of health! The glory of **His** touch!

Healing from Jesus is a wonderful experience (I P 2.24).

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Jesus died on the Cross of Calvary for our sins and for our healing – **healing in our souls, our spirits, our hearts, our minds, our bodies, the totality of who we are**. He has provided wholeness and holiness for all who will press into Him.

There is a door, a door to Jesus, a door open to the body of Christ where those hungry for more of the Lord in their lives are gathering. The crowd is growing; their hearts are turned toward the Lord Jesus Christ. They are pressing to get through the door and see Jesus – to really see Him, to know Him as Lord of their lives.

Are you pressing in? Are you distressed as was the woman with the issue of blood? She was willing to **press** her way through the crowd, no matter how difficult. Her mind was set; she would settle for nothing less than to touch Jesus and be made whole.

Are you longing to experience Christ, to have a close relationship with Him? Press through to the Lord in prayer. He patiently waits to receive you, to make Himself known unto you as unto Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus saw Jesus and was changed. Zacchaeus would never be the same; salvation had come to his house.