

Title: PROPHECIES FULFILLED, MARK 6:30-34 & 53-56.
(Chatham, NJ; 07/19/09, AM) [D, E – Topical]

Theme: Jesus fulfilled the prophecies to bring about peace and establish the throne of David; his miracles demonstrated the truth of his claims to fulfill them.

Purpose: To convince the congregation of the truth of these fulfillments and to help them strengthen their conviction that Jesus has reconciled them to God.

Introduction:

1. Because of the miracles, we might overlook the attraction of the crowds to Jesus.
2. Even more, we might overlook just how this fulfilled not only their longing for God but the fulfillment of past predictions concerning the messiah.
3. Two important elements of the messianic expectation surface here.
4. First, he was to be a descendant of David and second, he would establish peace.
5. These can be seen in what happens in his encounters with the crowds.

I. The Lost Sheep and the Promise of Peace.

- A. A deep and abiding longing in everyone's soul.
 1. Psalm 89:46 longs for God.
 2. The psalmist's lament speaks to the heart of all mankind though their desire for God is not so forthright.
 3. People need communion with him more than they know.
 4. I read the story of a young woman recently: parents divorced at 11, family moved to different states, drug abuse, dropped out of school, and unstable relationships lead her to realize her loneliness was killing her. It took a long time to realize that God's love was what she needed most.
 5. Psalm 89 sets this longing in the context of prophecy which points to David and his messianic descendant: "you are my Father" (26); "My steadfast love will keep him," (24, 28, & 33).
 6. All the prevalent false notions of the messiah missed this essential ingredient.
 7. The hunger of the crowds for Jesus reflects their emptiness (Mk. 6:33-34, 55) and their longing. Jesus in part fills the emptiness by teaching them.
 8. True peace can only come through communion with God.
- B. Fulfilled longing in Ephesians 2 brings true peace.
 1. Paul's doctrinal formulation here concerning the replacement of the old with the new covenant carries implications for healing.
 2. At one time there were those who had no hope (12).
 3. Now they (you) are brought near (13).
 4. He has broken down the hostilities and made us unified (15).
 5. We are no longer strangers and aliens (19).
 6. We have access to the Father (18).
 7. In Christ our emptiness and alienation have been rectified.
 8. Peace (14, 15, & 17) along with a sense of belonging and reconciliation is what Jesus brought to the multitudes.

II. David and His Descendant(s) Will Shepherd Israel.

- A. Legitimate king.

1. His offspring and his throne predict the messianic office, Ps. 89:29.
2. The promise to David was first given in 2 Samuel.
3. The Jews all expected the messiah to be of David's descent, even to the point of being born in the city of David, Bethlehem, Mt. 2.
4. Matthew secures the legitimacy of that descent, Mt. 1:1-17.
5. In all ways Jesus fulfills the prophecy to be of David's house and line.

B. Jeremiah 23:1-8 defines the role that Jesus fills.

1. Jeremiah speaks of the righteous branch descended from David.
2. More importantly Jeremiah casts him in the role of the legitimate shepherd who establishes justice, righteousness, and salvation (5, 6).
3. His role as shepherd can be seen in his compassion on the crowds, Mk. 6:34.
4. He leaves little doubt about satisfying this prophecy.
5. He fulfilled it best when he laid down his life. Jesus is the shepherd.

III. Jesus' Miracles Provide Certainty (Mark 6:35-52).

A. Feeds 5,000.

1. Of itself this demonstrates remarkable powers; he multiplies food.
2. More than that, it is an exercise of a shepherd's compassion.
3. The Good Shepherd cares for the sheep.
4. We see a dual function of this miracle: on one level we see a man of immense compassion and concern for these people, on another level the ability to provide food legitimizes the truth that he is the Good Shepherd.
5. This miracle is almost an addendum to this more important truth.

B. Walks on Water.

1. Of all the miracles that Jesus did this is the one that we might label flamboyant.
2. What miracles we've looked at so far are driven by compassion, Christ's shepherding instincts.
3. Frequently Jesus tells the person healed to tell no one; he keeps his powers quiet.
4. I have no clue what prompted him to do this, but it certainly is memorable and it most certainly demands that we take Jesus for more than a mere man.
5. The disciples were astounded although Mark comments that their astonishment was derived from a lack of understanding about the last miracle (52).
6. If Jesus can do one why not the other?
7. If Jesus can provide for such a large number why be afraid?
8. If these events are true why not believe?

Conclusion:

1. Jesus satisfies the emptiness in our souls that we try to fill in all the wrong ways: he reconciles us to God.
2. Bringing the peace that our souls crave demonstrates that he truly is the Messiah.
3. His shepherding characteristics demonstrate that he is the true son of David.
4. His miraculous powers...how can you not believe?
5. Open your hearts, minds, and souls to the great shepherd of your souls. Let him lead you back to the source of light and life: your heavenly Father.
6. No one loves you like your Father.