

**Sermon Notes**

**Providence Community Church**

9-28-14 Ken Carlton

**Title: MERCY OR MAGIC**

**Main Text:** Mat 15:29-16:4

**Sermon Description:** Throughout the narrative in Mat 15 into 16, we can read between the lines of chronicle and observe the situational sovereignty in four details in this record. First, there is the matter of the ROUTE Jesus travels, second, the REPETITION of feeding thousands, third, the REGION (or setting) of the events, and fourth, the REACTIONS to Christ from those who interact with him in contrasting ways at this juncture in His ministry. Category #4 is the theme of this message. Consider in your own approach to Christ, the following questions... Do you approach/come to Christ, to glorify Him or to test Him? When considering the person and work of Jesus, do you marvel or question? In your quest for answers, are you surrendering or shopping? Are you admittedly poor in spirit or are you self sufficient? In beseeching Christ, are you more interested in mercy, or magic? Surveying the characters displayed here... Who would you rather be? The Pharisees, scribes, Sadducees, disciples, or the crowds as represented by the Canaanite woman?

**HEADING: NOTICE THE FOLLOWING CONTRASTS...**

**1. PETITION – THE APPROACH OF PEOPLE TO CHRIST**

- a. “..bringing with them..”      b. “..to test Him..”      c. “..at His feet..”      d. “.. show them a sign..”

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**2. PROCLAMATION – THE APPROACH OF CHRIST TO PEOPLE**

- a. “.. He healed them..”      b. “.. the sign of Jonah..”      c. “.. unwilling to send them away..”      d. “.. so he left them..”

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**3. PROVIDENCE – CLAIMS TO SUFFICIENCY + SOVEREIGN OCCASION**

- a. “..they all ate and were satisfied..”      b. “..beware of the leaven..”      c. occasion by design

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**4. PERSUASION – OF THE PEOPLE RELATIVE TO CHRIST**

- a. “..they glorified the God of Israel..”      b. “..an evil and adulterous generation..”

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**Close:** This message is a repentance appeal relevant for facebook users as well as academics. Let us repent of our intellectual and existential self-sufficiency! May there be a revival of poverty of spirit! Christ is not a mere list of bullet points on a brochure for the self-centered seeker. Many are willing to be impressed, like a patron of a magic show... but few are willing to be crucified with Christ?! (Gal 2:20)

**FAMILY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:
2 requests	2 answers	Who provides	Our attitude	Fulfillment	Gospel call
Verses:	Verses:	Verses:	Verses:	Verses:	Verses:
Mt 15:29-30, 16:1	Mt 15:30-31,16:2-4	Mt 15:32-38, 16:8-12	Mt 15:30-31, 16:1-4	Is 29:22-24	Gal 2:20