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THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF JESUS  
LK. 14:25, 15:1

" And there went great multitudes with Him--then drew near to Him all the Publicans and sinners to hear Him."

When we come to deal with Jesus we are dealing with the attractive personality of all personalities--dealing with the most attractive personaity who ever walked or talked with men. " The fairest among ten thousand and altogether lovely." No person has ever touched this world who was so timeless in his occupancy of the mind of the race. Since the time when Deity told the serpent that his head should be bruised by the the Son of God some conception of Jesus has lived in the mind and heart of man. Indeed the conception has been a growing conception. Look how it took form in the minds of the prophets, blossomed in the Manger at Bethlehem, and coming to fruitage in these two thousand years since His birth.

The world has ever been turning to Jesus either to bless or curse Him. And equally true the cursers and criticisers are ever turning from their unholy attitudes and dispositions to converted lives wherein their sins are consciously pardoned and they come forth with praises upon their lips and songs in their hearts.

In the text of to day we see no new thing happening. We see the usual thing coming to pass wherever Jesus has ever gone----"And there went great multitudes with Him." Great crowds followed Him and still they follow until to day a half billion own Him King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Why was He so attractive? Why is He yet so attractive? And why is He ever to remain the most attractive of all beings who have touched this earth?

No doubt that great multitude which went with Him was composed of all sorts of people. They followed because He had something that no one else had ever seemed to have. To them He was a teacher of hard things. If father and mother would stand between you and your Christian duty then leave them behind but do your duty. Those without a cross cannot be His disciple. He that forsaketh not ALL can not be my disciple. Hard teaching yes but He taught it. We are prone to desire easy teachers in religion but Jesus honestly has never given His sanction to such preachers or teachers. He went down to the very quick of the tooth to the very marrow of the back bone where the touch was the most sensitive and without ether He operated that in the wide awakenss of the patient there might be knowledge of the facts in the case. Well this was attractive. And I believe that the world to day is still attracted by the people who will come out with the facts into the open and say what they mean.

THEN! Look at this word. It is a flood gate that opens up and wonderful things pour in. THEN drew near. You see a movement people are enthusiastic. Drew near, drew near to what? It is not to what. Too many people today are drawing near to what--if you please to things. You se it I see it and every body sees it. They did not draw near to what but they drew near to HIM. Who was it that drew near to HIM? Some little children? Yes I guess so because little children have always loved Him. I guess they love HIM because their little minds are freer from sin than older people. Sin is the only thing that keeps any one from loving HIM. Then I hear you say, some women drew near. Well you are right about that I am sure for wherever the program of Jesus is going on you will find some women there. They were last from the Cross and first at the tomb. I know this that around Jesus and His program are mighty good places for women to be. Those women mentioned around the Cross were not connected with the gambling for His vesture. Those closest to His Cross and program to day are not going to be found gambling either. I hope that we mark that down.

Then you say, "Well there were some preachers there likely! Well I hope so. I hope that the time will never come when preachers are not accused of being with Jesus, the women, and the children. It matters not how many women, children, or preachers were around the text says, " Then drew near unto HIM ALL the Publicans and sinners." They drew near to criticise and destroy. No it does not say that. It says that they drew near to hear HIM. Here we see a reversed order. It is natural for birds of a feather to flock together. Wherever the bad men are there the bad men go. Wherever there is sin there the sinners go. But on this occasion the order is reversed and sinners are going to the best who ever lived. Jesus showed the cost of discipleship and they drew near.

Jesus was attractive because of His cleansing power. Nothing is ever attractive which contaminates. If there is a pool, pond, or any other kind of place in the community that furnishes disease for the community no one goes around singing its praises but the right thinking people go about to have it done away. If there are sections of the town that are filled with unsightly buildings accompanied by unsanitary conditions we want to remove them because of their injury and further because they are not attractive. We are ashamed of them. Chemical preparations are made by the ton as disinfectants and antiseptics. Why? That we may cleanse things about us. These become very attractive because of their cleansing power. Yonder is a man full of filth and covered and infected with germs of every sort. We pick him up and are off to the hospital with him. He has a bath and clean clothes. He passes through the clinic and his trouble is discovered, treatment begun and the man is soon well. The cleansing there is attractive. But that man after he has been cleansed in his body may yet be black as night in his soul. The power that can come along and cleanse that soul is the cleansing power that is attractive above all things else. Jesus can do that. Jesus healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, and hearing to the deaf, but aside from that He also said, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." " If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from ALL unrighteousness." When we are in trouble and some one comes to us and clears it all up that person above all persons becomes attractive to us. When we are in sin and one comes and forgives it all and lets us have a new start HE SHOULD BECOME VERY ATTRACTIVE TO US. Has that happened that makes HIM attractive to you?

He is attractive because He showed us HIS divinity. <sup>no deny Bel.</sup> He for gave sins and people knew that the thing had happened. He restored life to the damsel and to Lazarus and no one else ever having done so before or since shows us that He was divine and makes Him God to us—nothing short of that. He could ascend contrary to the laws of gravitation, make food to multiply to any quantity needed, and more HE had a grapple with death and HE took the monster and crushing him beneath His feet walked out the Victor of the ages. "O Galilean Thou hast conquered." When your loved one sank back and the doctor said that it was all over nothing could have been more attractive than the person who could have come and said "Son come forth" and the the son would have sat up. Jesus has done that and more He raises our souls out of deep spiritual death to a life that is high and holy. He is attractive.

Even prophecy pictured Him as the One who would bind up the broken hearted and give beauty for ashes, and the oil of joy for the spirit of heaviness. He lived not alone in prphesy to this effect but He lives in your experience and in mine to day so that we know HIM in this regard and thereby He becomes the most attractive personality to our intellects and to our souls. " And there went great multitudes with HIM----- then drew near to HIM ALL the Publicans and sinners to hear HIM." No wonder, for He taught hard things and no one can

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say that Jesus did not live true to His own teachings. He demonstrated His power to forgive sins. He showed His divinity. He walked out and over death, and He heals our sad and broken hearts and we know it. No wonder that Publicans and sinners and all manner of people drew near to Him. I have failed to see where He ever disappointed a single person who came to Him for a blessing.

As the years roll by and the stars add centuries to their age you ask them them to point you to the most attractive figure and they will write down in uncontradicted facts JESUS. Ask them who is gathering most momentum and they in like manner they will tell you that the on-sweep of the centuries register in the midst of wars, upheavals, and strange events where various kinds of power come in for display, I say that the centuries answer back that in all this they register as the ONE who is gathering the most power the name JESUS. Say what you please. All the world is moving toward HIM. It can't move any other way when Jesus lives in the lives of five hundred million people. And when His principles are written in brick, books, and stone all over our country. Oh but you say sin is rampant and it is here all right. But you go over to Greenville and down to the river and look at the water near the bank and you will see it flowing up stream, notice it next time you are over there. But this water which is flowing up the river carries no cargo. The chunks and the logs and the old barrels are in the river and are moving but they move out yonder in the current of the river. Yes we have sin we see it around us but you only have to consult our history look at the brick and mortar in which money is immortalized, and see the army of hundreds of thousands of Christian workers going about their tasks in order to know that the on-sweeping current which is moving the affairs of the world is nothing less than Jesus. And just as the water which is running up the river circles in what we call the whirl pool and is drawn back in to the current even so are the most sinful drawing near to Jesus that they may hear HIM.

Now Jesus has handed His attractiveness on to us and desires that we shine it through our lives to others. And in proportion as we let Jesus push every sin from our lives we do show forth His attractiveness to our kindred and friends. With Jesus living in us, His principles lived by us, and His words spoken from our lips men all kinds of men are going to draw near to us to hear what Jesus has to say. Do you want to be a Jesus man? Do you long for such a state? If you cherish such a thought then rejoice for it is at your finger tips it is within your grasp. Because of His winsomeness there went great multitudes with Him-- and there drew near to Him ALL the Publicans and sinners to hear HIM.

