

## **THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 10/18-19/2021 *Matthew Chapter 15***

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

One tap mobile

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

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Phil Twente [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com)

### **OPENING PRAYER**

**THIS WEEK'S STUDY: The Gospel According to Matthew! *Matthew Chapter 15***

**Defilement Comes From Within – (vs. 1-20);**

**A Gentile Shows Her Faith – (vs. 21-27);**

**Jesus Heals Great Multitudes – (vs. 28-31);**

**Feeding the Four Thousand – (vs. 32-39)**

***THEME OF Chapter 15: Jesus denounces the scribes and Pharisees; rebukes His disciples; heals the daughter of the Syrophenician woman and multitudes; feeds the four thousand.***

- This chapter continues the movement of the King. He is beginning now to move toward the Cross. We have already seen His rejection and conflict with the religious rulers. This chapter advances the ministry of Jesus to the very breaking point with the scribes and Pharisees. There is a lot of action here.

- This chapter introduces us to the subject of the power and effect of tradition. Note the stark difference between the ministry of Jesus, who is reaching out in healing love to men and women all over the region, and the hindering work of the scribes and the Pharisees, who attempt, armed with tradition, to halt that ministry of love. They are going to pit the Word of God against their tradition!

### Traditions and Commandments

**Mat 15:1** *Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying,*

- **They had traveled from Jerusalem all the way up to the Galilee** in order to challenge Him concerning His teaching and concerning His practices. They had not come all the way out to applaud Him or to accept His teaching. They had come to criticize Him. Immediately we recognize that this was not a friendly visit.

**Mat 15:2** *"Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."*

- **Notice the question is, they are transgressing the tradition of the elders.** They are not transgressing the law but the tradition of the elders. According to the tradition of the elders, you had to wash your hands in a ceremonial way before eating. It was not really hygienic. It was not that the disciples did not wash their hands, but they did not wash them according to the traditional method that was developed by their traditions.
- **Although people were being healed and helped, delivered and fed, the scribes and Pharisees found fault** with Jesus' disciples because they didn't wash their hands ceremonially as prescribed by sixty-five pages of the Mishnah, the written version of the traditional oral Jewish Law. The tradition of the elders became more important than the law itself. Their findings were known as the tradition of the elders—a body of work so important to the scribes and Pharisees that one rabbi said, "He who expounds the Scripture in opposition to the tradition of the elders will have no part in the world to come."

**Mat 15:3** *He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?"*

- **The issue is between the traditions that have been developed and the actual commandments of God.** Now it seems that man is always developing traditional religions. It is so easy for us to fall into traditions, but it is so hard to break traditions. Traditions tend toward legalism and almost always are a hinderance to the work of the Holy Spirit. Reliance on the Holy spirit gets replaced by the futile keeps of rules and regulations. Traditions hang on and they are just so difficult to get away from. Jesus is challenging them because by their traditions, they were actually transgressing the commandment of God. They had a very clever way of doing it.

**Mat 15:4** *For God commanded, saying, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER'; and, 'HE WHO CURSES FATHER OR MOTHER, LET HIM BE PUT TO DEATH.' (Deu 5:16) 'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. (Exo 21:17) "And he who curses his father, or his mother shall surely be put to death.*

- **That was the commandment of God,** but the Jews had developed and added a tradition to it.

**Mat 15:5** *But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God"—*

- **The word here "gift" (dōron, gift, sacrifice; Corban in Mark 7:11) is "a dedicated thing."** This is something that I have dedicated to God. For instance, it was the duty of the child to take care of the parents. That is why the families that had a lot of children were considered rich. They had a lot of children to take care of them when they got old. That is the way it was supposed to be, that of the honoring of the father and the mother was for the children to provide for their parents as they became old, But often, the parents would come to the children, destitute and in need, and the children would say that we would like to do that for you, but we had dedicated our funds to God. So, we cannot give to you. It has been dedicated to God. They were actually circumventing the commandment of God by the tradition.

**Mat 15:6** *then he need not honor his father or mother.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.*

- You have nullified the meaning of the law, *the commandment of God,* by tradition.

- **Tradition! Is it good, or is it bad?** We will learn in this passage, from the lips of Jesus, the element which makes tradition good, or that which makes it evil. It externalizes religion, makes it outward instead of inward. As long as we are fulfilling the prescribed outward form, we think we are acceptable before God. That is the terrible danger of tradition.

*Mat 15:7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:*

*Mat 15:8 'THESE PEOPLE DRAW NEAR TO ME WITH THEIR MOUTH, AND HONOR ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME.*

- **Jesus is going to bore right down to the very heart of the whole matter which is the heart.** It is not your actions so much as it is your attitude. He is going to be saying some things right now that really capsulize His whole teaching. These are the things that caused His conflict with the scribes and the Pharisees and the religious leaders. For they were placing **all of the emphasis upon the actions** of man. Jesus is saying that it is not so much the actions but the attitudes of the heart that God is interested in. You can have the right actions but the wrong attitudes. Thus, the attitude of the heart nullifies the action.
- **This basically is the teaching of the New Testament.** When Paul talks about love, in First Corinthians thirteen, “Though I have the right actions, though I sell everything I have and take the money and bestow it on the poor. Oh, what a glorious, generous, wonderful thing to do! “But if I have not love, it profits me nothing.” If love is not the motive, if there is some other motive other than love, then there is no profit. It is what is going on in your heart, that is what God is interested in. Isaiah prophesied of them, “They honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.”

*Mat 15:9 AND IN VAIN THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.' "*

- **Quoting the prophet Isaiah, Your worship of God is *in vain*.** All of your traditional washing of your hands, the binding of the prayers, the bobbing and going through the prayers, all of that is in vain if your heart isn't right before God!
- **For they teach for doctrines the commandments of men.** This same error has crept into the church to a great extent. There are many churches that are bound in traditionalism, doing things simply for the reason that they have always done it that way, not necessarily biblical or scriptural. If you do them long enough, they become church dogma, and are then equal to inspiration. It becomes an accepted practice and many times, a required practice. The traditions of man. But they make void the commandment of God. To make matters worse the Rabbis held that the keeping of the traditions of men were more important than obeying the Law of Moses!

### *What Defiles a Person*

*Mat 15:10 When He had called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear and understand:*

- **He had been in the discussion with these fellows, and He's just dressed them down,** calling them *hypocrites* and showing them their errors. Then, He calls the multitude! Come over here. I want you to hear this! This is important! This is the essence of My teaching! Now our Lord will enlarge upon that statement.

*Mat 15:11 Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."*

- **That is a pretty heavy statement!** It is not what goes in your mouth that really defiles you. What goes in your mouth will pass through the body. But it is what comes out of your mouth, it is that which defiles!
- The great principle that Jesus was teaching is that moral defilement is spiritual, not physical.

*Mat 15:12 Then His disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?"*

- **The disciples are amazed that the Lord would offend the Pharisees.** Up to this point there has been conflict between the religious leaders and Jesus, but this is the breaking point! The Lord continues to instruct His disciples.

*Mat 15:13 But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.*

- **The word *plant* here means “system”.** It is not too broad to interpret Jesus as saying, “Every religious system which My heavenly Father has not planted shall be rooted up.”

**Mat 15:14** *Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."*

- **They were not really planted** by the heavenly Father. They will be rooted up. *They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both of them will fall in the ditch.* This is somewhat humorous statement, and it is certainly biting sarcasm! The Pharisees were the blind leaders.

**Mat 15:15** *Then Peter answered and said to Him, "Explain this parable to us."*

- **The Lord has been speaking** in parables to His disciples, but they had not gotten His point yet. Peter was referring to, *(Mat 15:10c-11) Hear and understand: Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."*

**Mat 15:16** *So Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding?"*

- **You, My disciples, who have been with Me so long, who have heard** so many discourses from Me, being instructed by Me, yet do not understand what is so plain and easy, that has nothing of difficulty in it, but for what might easily be accounted.

**Mat 15:17** *Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated?*

- **Whatever food a man takes in at his mouth, he swallows it.** His stomach receives it and having digested it, the grosser parts go down into the intestines, passing through the bowels, and are evacuated. No moral pollution can be contracted by eating any sort of food, even though it should not be clean itself, nor eaten with clean hands.

**Mat 15:18** *But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.*

**Mat 15:19** *For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.*

- **The things that defile a man: Listen to what a person says, and they will soon reveal what is in their heart.** What does that tell you about the world in which in live? What does that tell you about the people in your workplace? It reveals a lot. It tells you what is going on in their heart because what is going on in their heart is going to come out from their mouth. You hear them telling their filthy stories and innuendoes. You hear them speaking of their hatred and their anger. You hear them as they are talking about some gal that they would like to take to bed, and things of this nature. That is what is in their hearts. That is what defiles them. Out of the heart, the mouth speaks. Out of the abundance of the heart. It is revealed by what a person says, what is going on.
- **These things are always lurking within the fleshly human heart.** Do you think these things can be rehabbed? No! What is needed to be done is to crucify it! Consider the heart dead! Do not let it reign!
- **If we walk in the spirit, we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh,** not the other way around! Refrain from fulfilling the lust of the flesh and THEN walk in the Spirit. Where is your heart? What comes out of it right now?

**Mat 15:20** *These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."*

- **At the time of Noah, God saw that the imaginations of man's heart was only evil continually.** Look at the movies today. What does that tell you about the heart of man? Paul the apostle, as he speaks of the wrath of God that is going to come against the world that has rejected God, *(Rom 1:21) because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*
- **He tells us of their final actions, (Rom 1:29-32) being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, [30] backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, [31] undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; [32] who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.**
- **The whole movie industry is made up with themes that we have just read.** Murders, violence, adultery, fornication. These are the themes of the movie industry.
- **What does Paul mean when he says, "...not only do them but they take pleasure in those that do them?"** If you are going to the theatre and watching these things portrayed, or watching them on TV, if you get a kick out of seeing these things, then you are of those who are taking pleasure in those that do them! It shows something about your heart. *(Pro 4:23) Keep your heart with all diligence, For*

out of it spring the issues of life. God's interested in what is going on in your heart. When God makes His changes, He makes the changes from within. It is a changed heart. "These are the things," Jesus said, "that defile a man,"

- **But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."** You might get some germs, even petting a cat might pick up some worms for your nails or whatever, but that does not defile you. It is what comes out of your mouth. The things that are in the heart are now coming out. Our Lord has made a tremendous statement here.

### ***The Faith of a Canaanite Woman***

**Mat 15:21** Then Jesus went out from there and departed (withdrew) to the region of Tyre and Sidon. (1Ki 5:1) Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, because he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram had always loved David.

- **Now Jesus went from there, not really going much around the Jewish cities anymore.** His ministry is pretty much over with them. He is pronounced judgment, "Woe unto Capernaum, more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the days of judgment than for you, because if the works that had been done there that were done in your city, they would have repented and so forth, and would not have been destroyed." He is turned away now, and He is going actually over into Gentile territory.
- **He departed to the coasts of Tyre and Sidon,** which is slightly north of the Galilee, on the sea coast, the Mediterranean sea coast in southern Lebanon.

**Mat 15:22** And behold (an imperative, not a suggestion), a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried (crying out and continuing to cry out, going on and on) out to Him, saying, "Have mercy (an imperative) on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

- **And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region.** Marks tells us she was the Syro-Phoenician, typically a worshipper of Ashtart and Baal, a mixture of several races and a true Gentile.
- **She cried out to Him** (continuing to clamor after Him), saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."
- **"Son of David" is a Messianic title,** knowing that the Messiah was to be a descendant of David, referred to as the Son of David. No doubt the reputation of Jesus had spread far and wide. Over the Gentile territory, they had heard of Him, possibly of His being the Son of David, the promised Messiah. As Jesus comes into the area, this desperate woman, desperate because of the condition of her daughter, being severely demon possessed, came to Jesus, crying out to Jesus, for mercy in the healing of her daughter!
- **Have mercy on me!** Because my daughter continually being grievously vexed by demon possession. All parents of prodigals know this, about which she is crying! Have mercy on me! My heart is so broken over my son, or my daughter! They are under the enemies' influence. She is crying to the Lord, saying You have to help me, my heart is so broken. My life is so destroyed. It is not worth living. Everyday my daughter is shrieking and screaming. The demon is constantly having control over her, Lord! You have to help me, Lord! I cannot deal with it. My heart is broken! I do not want to live. I do not want to breathe. He is the Lord and Savior of those who cry those things and know their need.

**Mat 15:23** But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away! Get rid of her for she cries out after us.

- **He ignored her!** The silence of God is a difficult thing to handle. When we are praying and it seems like there are no answers, when it seems that heaven is silent, that God does not care, God is not concerned. I call but I hear no answer. I cry but there does not seem to be a response. That is always a heavy thing to deal with. Notice that His silence did not silence her! This woman kept pursuing Him! Calling unto Jesus, even though He seemingly was ignoring her. He did not answer her a word! She did not let up. Sometimes we think silence means refusal. I have been praying for my prodigal, and I get nothing! It has been going on for year after year, why is God silent. Why isn't He doing anything about it? Here we see that Jesus answered her not a word!
- **And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away! Get rid of her for she cries out after us.** Their motive was not that noble. What they were really saying is, Lord, heal her daughter, take care of her so she would get out of here. She is bothering us, following us and crying after us, Lord. Their motive was not really one of compassion for the daughter or for the woman. They were just thinking about themselves. They were acting more like the "send her away" crowd than like Jesus, who was always drawing and attracting people to Him

**Mat 15:24** *But He answered* (responding to the disciples, no doubt in her hearing) *and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Joh 10:16)* *And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.*

- **God's covenant was with the nation of Israel.** He had promised to send a Redeemer, a Savior. But God's covenant with Abraham was beyond Israel. It was to all of the nations of the earth, who would be blessed by His seed. But Jesus, first of all, had to fulfill the promises of God to Israel, then be rejected by Israel. Through that rejection, then the Gospel would be opened to the whole world. When Jesus, after His crucifixion, commissioned His disciples, it was to go unto all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. While He was here, He sent them forth by two's. It was to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He said, do not go to the cities of the Gentiles.
- **Now Jesus has gone to the city of the Gentiles.** A woman comes in desperation! "Have mercy, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon possessed! You would think that Jesus refusing to speak a word to her after her first cry. Now it seems these the words of Jesus, indicating no progress was being made, would have deterred her. That she would have hung her head and walked away sorrowful, perhaps wishing that she was a Jewish so she could claim His promise and help. But instead!

**Mat 15:25** *Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"*

- **Notice, she first came calling Him Son of David,** a title to which she was not privileged to use, and she came only asking. She is being drawn irresistibly closer to Him, though she probably doesn't understand it. Wow! Now she is not only asking, but also worshipping! She is now calling Him Lord and asking him, "*Lord, help me!*" On that basis, she can come! Not on the basis of Son of David. No, she cannot come that way. But on the basis of Lord, she can come! *Lord, help me!*

**Mat 15:26** *But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."*

- **That is a very strong statement!** Such another rebuff, now for the third time, would have driven most of us away. We would have turned on our heels and said, "You can't talk to me like that!"
- **The word "dogs" (*kunarion*) is in the diminutive in the Greek which is a lap dogs, or little puppies.** There were mean, vicious dogs, running in packs around the countryside. The people hated them. The word "dogs" (*kuōn*, a hound) was a very derogatory term. It was about the worst thing you could say to a person.
- **But "dog," that is a dirty term.** They would rarely just say "Gentile." They would say "Gentile dog." Jesus did not use that term, but a diminutive form and it was "little puppy." They did have little puppies, family pets. When they ate, it was not around our dining room table and the chairs, plates and silverware. They had to get down on the floor, and a very low table, using only their hands, breaking off the bread and dipping it in the soups and salads. Your hands would always get messy. They would save enough bread at the end of the meal to wipe off their fingers and hands, tossing bread to the little puppies that were just there waiting for it. This what she was referring to when the little puppies eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table.

**Mat 15:27** *And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall (falling) from their masters' table."*

- **Yes, Lord! I have no right!** I do not belong to the covenant race of people! I have no right to the children's bread. I am outside of the covenant! This humble, desperate, Gentile woman just wanted a crumb, the left overs, not taking anything that was promised to the Jews!
- **What an example for us! Would you be completely satisfied with just a crumb from our Master?** She is calling Jesus her master! A proud, unhumiliated heart would not have endured this; but she turned it into an argument to support her request. The state of this woman is a wonderful example of a sinner, deeply conscious of the misery of her soul. The least of Christ is so precious to her as, that even the very crumbs of the Bread of life are sufficient for her. What a lesson for all of us here. Especially, for those of us with prodigals!
- **It appear that of all graces, faith honors Christ the most.** Therefore, of all graces, Christ honors faith the most! He cured her daughter. He spoke, and it was done. From this example, may we seek help from the Lord. If we receive no gracious answer, may we learn to turn even our unworthiness and discouragements into pleas for mercy.

**Mat 15:28** *Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.*

- **Great is your faith!** Jesus never said anything like that to any of His disciples. Never once were they commended for their great faith. In fact, they were rebuked many times for their lack of faith! He was always rebuking them for their little faith, O you of little faith! Jesus said to Peter, (*Mat 14:31*) *And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"* But here is a woman, outside of the covenant people. Jesus is saying, *"O woman, great is your faith."*
- **Your faith, great is that faith.** Now, we know that Jesus knew and does know all things. He knew from the beginning that He was going to heal the daughter. So why then all of this ignoring of her call? Why this apparent rebuff? Because He was seeking to draw out what He knew was in her. This great faith that was in her heart. He knew it was there. He was seeking to draw it out to its fullest expression and also was seeking to draw her into a deeper relationship. Not just one of looking from the outside in, Son of David, have mercy; but where she would say, Lord! She would worship! From petition to worship! From Son of David, afar off, but to the closeness of Lord! **Lord, help me!** He was drawing her unto Himself because He knew what was in her! Her faith stood the test! It endured all those things. How about yours? How about mine?
- **At times, you, too, might wonder if the Lord is being difficult with you.** Why isn't He answering my prayers immediately? Why isn't He helping me, right now? It could be that He is doing something much deeper. It could be that He is allowing you to discover true faith, perseverance, and prevailing prayer, all of which are invaluable understandings that will help you not only in your present situation, but also in the next billion years to come!
- **This woman, in a sense, opened the door to a further ministry among the Gentiles.** Remember when Jesus was passing through Samaria, saying, (*Joh 4:3-4*) *He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. [4] But He needed to go through Samaria,* met the woman at the well. How that He revealed Himself to her as the Messiah. How that she went into the town and began to tell the people, saying come on out and meet a man that is told me everything I have ever done. The people came, and Jesus ministered to the Samaritans, opening the door for the other Samaritans to hear the Gospel. Similarly, this woman opened the door for the Gentiles.
- **It is interesting, Jesus comes to Israel, offering them everything,** but most believe nothing! He comes to this woman offering her nothing, but she believes everything!
- **Consider this situation as it may relate to children who are prodigals!** If I had only done this or done that? Put that behind you and trust Him to do His work! As this woman here has done! How about you right now?
- **Just think! In thirty-four words this woman goes from unknown to the only woman** to whom Jesus declares, O woman great is your faith!
- **Perseverance in prayer! It's so important!**

### *Jesus Heals Many*

*Mat 15:29 Jesus departed from there, skirted the Sea of Galilee, and went up on the mountain and sat down there. (Mar 7:31) Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee.*

- **Mark's gospel tells us that He came back to the Decapolis,** those ten Greek cities that were in the upper Galilee region that had primarily Gentiles living in them. They lived according to the Grecian culture. Jesus came back to these cities of the Decapolis.

*Mat 15:30 Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed (crippled, missing a hand or foot), and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them.*

- **Whatever our case is, the only way to find ease and relief, is to lay it at Christ's feet,** to submit it to Him, and refer it to His disposal. Those who would have spiritual healing from Christ, must be ruled as He pleases. See what work sin has made; what various diseases human bodies are subject to. Here were such diseases, crippled and missing limbs, which can only be healed supernaturally by the command of Christ. Not only the physical cures, but the spiritual cures that Christ works are wonderful! Consider the miracle when blind souls are made to see by faith, the dumb to speak in prayer, the maimed and the lame to walk in holy obedience! It is indeed to be wondered at!
- **Our Lord's mission of grace and truth was at its height.** His help, especially healing, was sought with the utmost eagerness. Large numbers of sick were being laid at His feet. Crumbs were given to the woman of Canaan, but whole loaves were distributed to the crowds of Jews, because it was fitting that

they should have a full chance to appreciate and accept Christ. For a brief moment they glorified the God of Israel, but the spasm of gratitude was only temporary. "His own" rejected Him. They would have His miracles, but would not own His claims. We need to take care that we do not become content and love Him for what we can get, but to love Him for Himself!

**Mat 15:31** *So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.*

- The mostly Gentile multitude marveled when they saw the supernatural miracles! They glorified the God of Israel as He was now working among these in the cities in the Decapolis!

### **Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand**

**Mat 15:32** *Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry (fasting), lest they faint on the way." (Mar 8:3) And if I send them away hungry to their own houses, they will faint on the way; for some of them have come from afar."*

- **Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, I have compassion on the multitude.** Isn't that always so of Him? The beautiful compassion of our Lord!
- **Because they have now continued with Me three days**, which time had been spent in healing their bodily disorders, and in preaching to them for the good of their souls; which shows the diligence and untiringness of Christ, as well as the attachment of the people to Him; who were so struck with His miracles and ministry, that though they had been so long from their habitations and families, knew not how to leave Him; nor did they talk, or show any signs of departing from Him, and returning to their houses, and business of life;
- **And have nothing to eat.** Not that they had been so long without eating anything, though very likely it was but little, and what they brought with them, and was now expended; nor could they provide themselves in a desert place, and many of them were a great way off from home:
- **And I do not want to send them away hungry** (fasting), Jesus might have dismissed them. The multitude had not asked any food of Him; but He could not bear the thoughts of dismissing them in such a condition; having had but very little sustenance all this while. It might be said to be in a manner, fasting during this time, at least now.
- **Lest they faint on the way, going** to their own houses, not having strength and spirit enough to travel, and get home, as Mark says, *(Mar 8:3c) for some of them have come from afar."*

**Mat 15:33** *Then His disciples said to Him, "Where could we get enough bread in the wilderness to fill such a great multitude?" (Mat 16:9-10) Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? [10] Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up?*

- **Where are we going to find the food for this great crowd?** Considering that the feeding of the 5,000 had likely occurred with the past month or at most month, it seems strange that the disciples would have forgotten what occurred then.
- **It may be that they considered this situation to be much different because now they were in Gentile territory and the hungry people were Gentiles.** Could it be that Jesus was using this as an example of ministering to the Gentiles, which will be what they are to do, especially after He is gone from them?
- **Additionally, as we see over and over in the Scripture, is our need to be constantly reminded of God's faithfulness!** How many of us right now are going into, or are already in, or coming out of a serious trial or affliction. Is it not true that during such times, we forget His faithfulness in the past and consider the present trial maybe the most difficult that we or anybody ever had? Do we not call others to pray for us, seeming to believe that we really need something special to get us through the situation that we are in?

**Mat 15:34** *Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven, and a few little fish."*

- **And Jesus said unto them**, in a very mild and gentle manner, taking no notice nor finding fault with them for their forgetfulness of the recent miracle. He was willing to exercise their patience, and try their faith, asks them, **how many loaves do you have**, that they brought along with them for their own use?
- **They said seven, and a few little fish.** , which they confessed for the record, how little food they had



in comparison to the size of the crowd. This confession makes clear that the feeding is miraculous evidence of His deity.

- **Once again, Jesus is asking us to bring to Him what we do have.** Not what we want or would like to have to complete the task. When we cannot have what we want, we must make the best of what we have, and do good with it as far as it will go. We are to bring what we have to Him and do what He tells us to do! In His sovereign grace, He will multiply and provide as He wills!

**Mat 15:35** *So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground.*

**Mat 15:36** *And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude.*

- **Again, we see the method of the Lord in ministry.** He gave to His disciples and the disciples to the multitudes. God uses His human instruments in order to reach others. Paul the apostle said, (**1Co 15:1**) *Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand.* That is God's method. He gave to the disciples and the disciples then imparted it to the multitudes.

**Mat 15:37** *So they all ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets full of the fragments that were left. (Act 9:25) Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket (spuris). (Mat 14:20) So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.*

- **So they all ate and were filled.** Again, the word there in Greek is "glutted," they were stuffed!
- **They took up seven large baskets full of the fragments that were left.** Following the feeding of the 5,000 in chapter 14, with the five loaves and two fish, they took up twelve baskets (*kophinos*, a small basket). Here, in feeding the 4,000 with seven loaves and a few fish, and they gathered seven baskets (*spuris*, a large basket). We can see the two words for basket are different in the original language.
- **The Greek word for "baskets" in chapter fourteen** where He was feeding the Jews, was for the basket of the Jews, which most of them carried. It had a narrow neck in which they often kept food. They did not have it in an open basket because dust might blow on it that had come from the ground where a Gentile walked, believing that every place a Gentile would walk, would be unclean! If the dust were picked up in a wind from where a Gentile had walked and would blow on your food, the food would be unclean. This is part of their tradition, such as Jesus was talking about earlier.
- **The Gentiles had these big, open baskets.** That is the Greek word that is used here in chapter 15, which is the basket of the Gentiles. This would indicate that these were actually Gentiles from the area of the Decapolis that are fed in this story, in contrast to the 5,000 Jews, who were fed in chapter 14.

**Mat 15:38** *Now those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.*

- **We can see a hint as to the coming Marriage Supper of the Lamb** in the way Jesus miraculously fed both Jews and Gentiles. The feedings were so impressive that all were so astoundingly pleased. The Gentiles must have really been ecstatic. Likewise, the Jews, although some were probably offended by the idea that Gentiles would also be blessed the same as they.

**Mat 15:39** *And He sent away the multitude, got into the boat, and came to the region of Magdala.*

- **The region of Magdala is between Capernaum and Tiberias on the western shore** of the sea of Galilee. It is the village from which Mary Magdalene came, the one who was so close to Jesus, the first one that He appeared to after His resurrection, the one from whom He had cast seven demons.
- **They came on over to Magdala but notice, not to Capernaum.** We do not read of His being in Capernaum again. In chapter 16, Jesus, with His disciples will go up to Caesarea, Philippi, way up into the upper Galilee, away from the influence and the area that was controlled by the Jews and out of Herod's reach.
- **Then He will return but He will go on down to the eastside of the Jordan River** and spend His ministry down there until He goes up to Jerusalem for the Passover where He is crucified. He is staying away from the totally Jewish areas because of the animosity that is rising. His time on His return to Jerusalem must be perfect. He must be crucified during the feast of the Passover in order to fulfill all of the types of the Old Testament.
- **Next week, we will find Him in Caesarea, Philippi,** drawing Himself more now just with the disciples, spending quality time with them as He is seeking to prepare them for that time which will be coming very shortly when He will be taken away from them. They will then be ministering through the power of the Holy Spirit, but not with the actual physical presence of Jesus.

### Summary - *The Faith of a Canaanite Woman*

**Perseverance in Prayer:** Jesus commend this Canaanite woman, who would not let go until she had received the request for her daughter to be delivered! "*O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.*"  
*And her daughter was healed from that very hour.*

- **Importance of perseverance in prayer:** I do not understand everything about prayer, about faith, or how prayer and faith operate, but in the Bible, over and over again, Jesus does these things that commends to us the importance of perseverance in faith.
- **Does my prayer make any difference?** Have been praying for so long and I do not see anything happening.
- **Look at the Psalms of David.** "Wake up! Hear my prayer! God listen to me! They are going to kill me. This is the end of the rope!" He cries out with such emotion and intensity, anxiety, desperation that we feel too! We see in the Psalms that desperation continues until:
- **It is translated into an answer to the prayer! It is translated to impartation of faith in a person's life.**
- **It changes my perspective!** I begin to see my problem in light of the perspective of God! How big He is! How small I and my problem are, in comparison. It changes me!
- **The first thing that prayer changes is us!**
- **We are to pray for a situation until:** *It is answered;* I either hear a "no" from God; OR He releases me from it by His Holy Spirit. I hear Him saying, "Leave it with Me". I am at peace in willing to leave it in His hands. That is enough!
- **What a word this is because it is so easy to give up praying!** It is so easy to feel my prayer is not making any difference. But it is! If we cannot see it yet in the situation, it is at least making a difference in me, as I pray for the person!
- **No situation is the same immediately after prayer, as it was before,** whether I can see it with the naked eye or not, it is the truth!
- **This Canaanite woman is a great encouragement to prayer!**
- **It is interesting, Jesus comes to Israel, offering them everything,** but most believe nothing! He comes to this woman offering her nothing, but she believes everything!
- **Just think! In thirty-four words this woman goes from unknown to the only woman** to whom Jesus declares, O woman great is your faith!
- **How persevering would you, or I, have been?** Would we have fallen and worshipped Him after being twice rebuffed? **How satisfied are you with just a crumb from our Master's table? Is Christ enough for you?**

### Closing Song:

#### CHRIST IS ENOUGH - Hillsong (4:00)

Christ is my reward And all of my devotion Now there's nothing in this world That could ever satisfy  
Through every trial My soul will sing No turning back I've been set free  
Christ is enough for me Christ is enough for me Everything I need is in You Everything I need  
Christ my all in all The joy of my salvation And this hope will never fail Heaven is our home  
Through every storm My soul will sing Jesus is here To God be the glory  
Christ is enough for me Christ is enough for me Everything I need is in You Everything I need  
I have decided to follow Jesus No turning back No turning back (2X)  
The cross before me The world behind me No turning back No turning back (2X)  
Christ is enough for me Christ is enough for me Everything I need is in You Everything I need (2x)

### Closing Prayer:

Assignment for next week: Read *Matthew Chapter 16*