

MATTHEW 15

:1- -20

The Defiled Heart

:21- -28

Great Gentile Faith

:29- -31

Great Multitudes Healed

:32- -39

Great Multitudes Fed

Matthew 15:1-20 Overview

v.1 Intensity of the opposition; note "from Jerusalem"

v.2 Ludicrous accusation

vv. 3-9 Jesus' Indictment of the scribes and Pharisees

Conclusions:

1. You have nullified God's commandment by your tradition. (v. 6)

2. You are the Great Pretenders. (v. 7, 1st direct)

Externally: draw near to God, honor God

Internally: far from God; empty worship

Why? You teach *men's commandments* as though they are *God's doctrines*.

vv.10-11 Heart of the matter

v.12 Disciples' concern

vv. 13-14 Spiritual blindness

v. 15 Peter's request

vv. 16-20 The Defiled Heart

See also

Genesis 6:5

Numbers 15:37-39

Jeremiah 17:9

Romans 3:10-18

Matthew 15:1-6
The Defiled Heart

The Question of the Scribes and Pharisees

Why do Your disciples transgress
the tradition of the elders? (v.2)

The Answer/Question of the Lord

Why do you also transgress
the commandment of God
because of your tradition? (v. 3)

(Conclusion) Thus, you have made
the commandment of God
of no effect
by your tradition. (v. 6)

the
commandment
of God

Matthew 15:1-20

In this passage, Jesus is "showing the
difference between

ceremonial and *real* defilement;

between that which is *spiritual*
and that which is *material*;

between *purity of the soul*
and *observance of a form*;

between *true* religion and *false*."

(Charles Erdman, The Gospel of Matthew,
italics mine)

What made this Gentile woman's faith so great?

- traveled from Canaan to Phoenicia (21-22)
- called Jesus "Lord" three times (22, 25, 27)
- called Jesus "Son of David" (22), Messianic title

She recognized Christ's person and power.

- persistently cried out for Jesus' help (22, 23, 25)
- rather than touting her "merits," she requested mercy (22)

She demonstrated true humility.

- was poor in spirit, and she hungered and thirsted after righteousness (22, 23, 25)
- was content to accept anything the Lord gave her (27)

She received Jesus' commendation:

"O woman, great is your faith!" (28)

MIRACLES in Matthew 1-15

4:23f HEALING all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people

8:2f Leper

8:5f Paralyzed Centurion's Servant

8:14f Fever—Peter's mother-in-law

8:16 MANY HEALED—demon-possessed, spirits cast out, ALL who were sick were HEALED

8:23f Stilled a storm (winds and sea)

8:28f Cast demons out of two men

9:1f Forgave sin, healed paralytic man

9:18f Dead girl brought back to life, and woman with flow of blood healed

9:27f Two blind men healed

9:32f Mute, demon-possessed man healed

9:35f HEALING every sickness and every disease among the people

12:9f Man with withered hand healed on Sabbath

14:13f Feeding 5000 men plus women and children

14:22f Walking on sea, enabling Peter to do so

14:35f ALL who were sick, made perfectly WELL

15:29f GREAT MULTITUDES of lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others, HEALED

15:32f Feeding 4000 men plus women and children

The Compassion of the Lord Jesus Christ

What moved Him?

Response

Result

Matt. 9:36f

Matt. 14:14f

Matt. 15:32f

Matt. 20:34f

Luke 7:13f

The Compassion of God and the Compassion of God's People

Romans 9:15 (cf. Exodus 33:19)

“For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom-
ever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever
I will have compassion.””

--The LORD is compassionate in His character.

--He *shows* compassion because He *is* compassionate.

--He sovereignly chooses the recipients of His compassion.

Romans 8:28-30; II Corinthians 3:18

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be
conformed to the image of His Son . . . ” (29)

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror
the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image,
just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

--Believers are becoming like the Lord (in compassion)

I Peter 3:8; I John 3:17

“ . . . having compassion one of another . . .

. . . be pitiful . . . ”

Matthew 15:32-39
Great Multitudes Fed

Feeding the 4000 men (estimated 16,000)

Matthew 15:32f

Once

Feeding the 5000 men (estimated 20,000)

Matthew 14:13f

Once

Feeding Israel in wilderness (est. 2,400,037)

John 6:31

Every day/40 years

Feeding Earth's Humans (est. 8,000,000,000)

Psalms 136:25

Yesterday
Today
Tomorrow