**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW**

**LESSON 15 - Debate, Healings, and Jesus Feeds 4,000**

**Matthew 15:1-39**

**EXTRA INFO:** *The tradition of the elders* was a body of extrabiblical rules that had only existed in oral form since the Babylonian captivity. Later it was committed to writing in the Mishna near the end of the second century.

**DAYS ONE THRU THREE -** Read Matthew 15:1-20 (Debate over Tradition)

1. What did *the scribes and Pharisees, who were from Jerusalem*, say to Jesus in verse 2?

Answer here

2. How did Jesus answer them in verse 3?

Answer here

3. What does 2 Timothy 3:16-17 say about the importance of “Sola (only) Scripture.”

Answer here

4. a. What commandment of God did Jesus use as an example, in Matthew 15:4, to show that the scribes and Pharisees were the transgressors of the law because of their traditions?

Answer here

b. What was the penalty for breaking this commandment?

Answer here

5. How had they made *this commandment of God of no effect* in verses 5-6? Also read Mark 7:8-13, to see how they escaped having to financially help their parents by declaring *Corban*.

Answer here

6. What did Jesus call these scribes and Pharisees in verse 7?

Answer here

7. What had Isaiah 29:13 prophesied about them that’s recorded here in Matthew 15:8-9?

Answer here

8. After *calling them to* Himself, what great truth did Jesus share with the multitude in Matthew 15:10-11?

Answer here

9. How did the scribes and Pharisees react to these words of Jesus, according to the disciples?

Answer here

10. How did Jesus explain their reaction with another parable in verses 13-14?

Answer here

11. How did Jesus react in verse 16, when Peter asked Him to explain this parable?

Answer here

12. Read about Peter’s vision from God pointing to the New Covenant in Christ in Acts 10:9-16. How does verse 14 show that Peter was still concerned about what went into his mouth?

Answer here

13. Coming back to Matthew 15:17-18, how does Jesus explain this truth in more detail?

Answer here

14. What examples does He then give in verse 19 of things that can proceed out of the heart?

Answer here

15. As these examples are things that do defile a man, once again, what does not defile?

Answer here

**DAY FOUR -** Read Matthew 15:21-31 (Jesus Heals)

1. After *Jesus went out from there* *and departed to the region of Trye and Sidon*, what happened in verse 22?

Answer here

2. Jesus was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. So, how did this Gentile mother of a demon-possessed daughter get His attention by her actions and words in verses 25-27?

Answer here

3. a. How did Jesus answer her in verse 28?

Answer here

b. What does Romans 1:16 add about who can receive salvation?

Answer here

4. As Jesus left this place, and cut a wide path around the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, which was mainly a Gentile region, what still happened in verses 30-31?

Answer here

5. How would God’s grace extend to Gentiles, who knew they were sinners in need of a Savior, so they would also be included among God’s sheep, according to John 10:16?

Answer here

**DAY FOUR -** Read Matthew 15:32-39 (Jesus Feeds 4,000)

1. How did Jesus, once again, show His compassion on the multitudes in verse 32?

Answer here

2. a. After the 5,000 were fed, what foolish question did the disciples ask Jesus in verse 33?

Answer here

b. How much food did they have available this time, according to verse 34?

Answer here

3. Why do you think Jesus had the disciples state, for the record, how little food they started out with here and at the feeding of the 5,000? What did it prove?

Answer here

4. a. What did Jesus then do in verses 35-36?

Answer here

b. What was the result in verse 37-38?

Answer here

5. How did Jesus end this ministry, in the Gentile regions, in verse 39?

Answer here

**DISCUSSION:** How are the words from Jesus about the scribes and Pharisees in verse 14, *let them alone*, similar to the words, *giving them up and giving them over,* leading to even worse thingsin Romans 1:24-32? In light of what’s happening in our country today, read these verses, and tell what stands out to you about the progress of evil, when it has gone too far.

Answer here