



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 15:21-39” on January 28/31

CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed from Matthew 15:1-20 affect your week?

DISCOVER: MATTHEW 15:21-39

What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?

How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?

Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

Matthew 15:21-38: In this passage, Jesus takes His disciples and steps for the first time out of the boundaries of Israel into Gentile country in Tyre, foreshadowing the gospel being taken into the entire world.

- Why do you think Jesus took the disciples out of the familiar Jewish territory at this time – how would this affect His training of the disciples and the direction of His ministry?
- Can you describe a time you have gone away from what is familiar just to spend time with Jesus or to deal with a challenge in your life?
- Describe what this passage teaches us about God’s timeline and direction for His plan of salvation, and how that impacts our spiritual walk.

Matthew 15:21-28: The plight of the Canaanite woman who pursued Jesus teaches us a great deal about her persistence in faith and Jesus’ demonstrating compassion for ALL people.

- Why do you think Jesus first gave no response to the woman and then answered her as He did?
- What can we learn about true faith and persistence in pursuing God’s will from the Canaanite woman’s responses to Jesus?
- Compare Jesus’ show of compassion with that of the disciples; what can we apply to our own walk with Jesus from this – for whom do you have or not have compassion in your life?

Matthew 15:29-38: Jesus drew the attention of thousands as He moved through Gentile country, amazing the people. This brought about the story of His feeding the 4,000 after 3 days being with Jesus.

- Describe the similarities and differences between the story of the feeding of the 5,000 in Matthew 14:13-21 and the story of feeding the 4,000 in this passage.
- Can you describe a time in your life that you have been shown God’s care and faithfulness but later, like the disciples, failed to trust Him when another challenge arose?
- How might you use the gifts God has given you to take active steps in inviting outsiders to fill the empty seat at God’s table – to respond in compassion and bring the gospel to those outside your faith community?

RESPOND

What is one thing you learned about yourself from God’s Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?

Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

Pray for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.

KEEP READING

Acts 10 where God sends Peter to Cornelius (a gentile).