



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 15:21-39” on January 28/31

CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed from Matthew 15:21-29 affect your week?

DISCOVER: MATTHEW 16:1-12

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.)?

Jesus warned His disciples about the 'yeast' of the Pharisees – the hypocrisy of their teaching.

- What examples of hypocrisy do you see amidst the Christian community today?
- What are the things in your life that look more like the world than like the character of Jesus? What is feeding those?
- What is your yeast, the driving force that influences your choices?

The spiritual blindness of the Pharisees and Sadducees was a choice they made. The signs they chose to ignore describing what the Messiah would do when He came had been clearly indicated in the Scriptures.

- What signs of Jesus' Second Coming does our study of the scriptures indicate we should be looking for, and how can we interpret those today?
- When we are confronted with the 'Sign of Jonah,' we are forced to make a decision; what change has Jesus' resurrection brought about in the way you live your life?

Jesus also warned the disciples about their lack of faith, in focusing on the physical/immediate things rather than the spiritual. When we become overwhelmed with physical or materialistic things, we are distracted from a focus on spiritual things, which are eternal!

- What are ways we miss spiritual understanding in our lives just like the disciples did?
- How can we overcome our lack of faith and divert our focus to living with an eternal perspective, showing the compassion, mercy, and grace of Jesus to others?
- What is the foundation or cornerstone of why you do what you do?

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

John 11:1-44 where Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead and talks about the Resurrection..