

## Matthew 15:1-39

This text is too long to print here... so please read the relevant passages from your bibles.

# THE KING & HIS KINGDOM



## THE STORY OF JESUS

Matters of the Heart

Matthew 15:1-39

1/27/2019

### HOW TO BECOME RIGHTEOUS

- Jesus teaches that true purity comes from a **HEART** that has been made **RIGHTEOUS** by God.
- External actions do not make a person clean before God, because God's judgment concerns behavior that **ORIGINATES** in the **HEART** of a person.
- Before you enter his kingdom by faith, Jesus will **OFFEND** you.

### DISCIPLESHIP TO JESUS IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

- The **SUPREMACY** of the **WORD** of God.
  - a. Where tradition is **FAULTY** God's word is **FLAWLESS**.
- The **CENTRALITY** of the **HEART** in a person's life. (*Jeremiah 17:9, Ezekiel 18:30-32*)
  - a. Hearts harden from the **INSIDE** when we say **NO** to what God wants from us.
  - b. Hearts harden against the **OUTSIDE** when we try to protect ourselves from being **HURT**.
- The necessity of **FAITH** for **ALL** people.
  - a. Jesus' compassionate care is available to all who take his **WORD** and **WILL** as their **REALITY** and **PURPOSE** for life.

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### GROWTH GROUP DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

To catch the weekend message, go to: [MissionTrailsChurch.com](http://MissionTrailsChurch.com) or the [MTC App](#).

#### GETTING STARTED

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, **was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, inspired or confused you?**

#### DIGGING DEEPER

2. **Read Matthew 15:1-20**

Jesus speaks critically to the Pharisees about their wrong-headed emphasis on external ritual purity, but they miss the heart, the right inner motivation.

They are overly concerned with handwashing and body purity as a sign of religious faithfulness. **Can you think of an example of something in your own life you've been overly focused on, that wasn't the heart of the matter?**

In verses 10-11, 18 Jesus says, *Listen and understand. <sup>11</sup> What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them... <sup>18</sup> But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them.*

**Why is this such an important truth, then, and now?**

3. **Read Matthew 15:21-28**

**How would you describe the CHALLENGE Jesus gives to this woman, and then how would you characterize her RESPONSE?**

**Do you relate to either his challenge, or her response? Or are you**

**offended by it?**

#### GETTING PERSONAL

4. Three big themes in this chapter that describe the Kingdom of Heaven, and discipleship to Jesus are:

1. The SUPREMACY of the WORD of God. *(God's revealed authority in Jesus, and in the scriptures over human authority.)*
2. The CENTRALITY of the HEART in a person's life. *(Jesus' response to the Pharisees externally focused legalism.)*
3. The necessity of FAITH for ALL people. *(Jews and Gentiles alike need to place their confidence and trust in Jesus.)*

Consider each point, and answer this question for each one:

**How and why is this such a crucial idea?**

#### BRINGING IT HOME

5. The final point from the weekend message was: ***Jesus' compassionate care is available to all who take his word and will as their reality and purpose for life.***

**How do you need to live in and apply this truth for your life this week?**

#### PRAY TOGETHER