MYSTERY & MAJESTY

– 14 –

He Is Enough

All scriptures use the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise indicated

- Who gets to be with God?
- The Canaanite woman begins to expose something that has been in God's plan from Abraham: Israel's Messiah has come through Israel, but He has not come for Israel alone.
- Matthew's gospel is interesting because it is very Jewish in its writing.
- OT quotes, allusions, prophecy.
- Jesus is viewed as the new Moses.
- Yet, from cradle to grave, gentiles are a significant part of the story.
- This miracle is often overlooked

- Why does Jesus do almost the same miracle twice?

Matthew 15:29-31 29 Jesus went on from there and walked beside the Sea of Galilee. And he went up on the mountain and sat down there. 30 And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them, 31 so that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel.

- Decapolis – 10 Greek/Roman cities that were strong in Greek culture, religions, architecture and philosophy.
- False religions/idols.
- This is gentile territory.
- Mixed crowd
- The crowd is bringing people again.
- Isaiah 35

Matthew 15:32 Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.”

- He anticipates our weakness.
- He is not responding to a demand but a need.
- They were hungry but they stayed.

Matthew 15:33 And the disciples said to him, “Where are we to get enough bread in such a desolate place to feed so great a crowd?”

- Almost the same question as the feeding of the 5000.
- Don’t they remember?
- The disciples are a bit slow.

Matthew 15:34-36 34 And Jesus said to them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven, and a few small fish.” 35 And directing the crowd to sit down on the ground, 36 he took the seven loaves and the fish, and having given thanks

he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

- Jesus doesn't need what they have to be enough.
- Jesus can take what you have and make it into something miraculous.
- The question is not whether what you have is enough.
- The question is whether Jesus is enough.
- Speculation – there were 7 baskets leftover. 7 is the number of perfection. 7 tribes of the Canaanites.
- Could this be a hint that salvation is being provided for even them?

Matthew 15:37-39 37 And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up seven baskets full of the broken pieces left over. 38 Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. 39 And after sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

- The gentiles didn’t get a smaller portion that the Jews.

- The basket here is different than the one in the feeding of the 5000.
- The basket is big enough to hold a person.
- He sends the crowd away satisfied.
- Jesus is fulfilling the Genesis 12, Abrahamic promise, that in him all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.