

Matthew 15
Part 2 (21-39)
Jesus performs more miracles

- III. The daughter of a woman from Canaan is healed (21-28).
- A. Jesus departed to an area near the Mediterranean Sea (21).
1. This was done in an effort to get away from the multitude (cf. Mk 7:24).
 - a. “He could not be hid” shows how far His fame had traveled (cf. Mk 2:1; 3:7; 6:31, 32).
 - b. It is possible He wanted to give His apostles additional teaching to help prepare them.
 2. In these cities He was on Gentile soil and would be in relative obscurity.
- B. A Canaanite woman seeks help from Jesus (22) (cf. Mk 7:26).
1. Jesus could not remain concealed when this woman heard He was in her area.
 - a. His fame had spread throughout the entire region.
 - b. She needed help and turned to Jesus for mercy (cf. Ps 4:1; 6:2).
 - c. “Mercy” is defined as *not* getting what we deserve.
 2. She refers to Him as “Lord” and “Son of David”.
 - a. “Son of David” is the common designation of the Christ (cf. 1:1; 20:30; 22:42).
 - b. This shows the Jewish religion had spread beyond the national borders (cf. 23:15; Acts 2:10; 8:27).
 3. Her need was that her daughter was possessed by a demon.
- C. When Jesus did not answer her the disciples wanted Him to send her away (23, 24).
1. There could have been two reasons for Jesus not to answer her.
 - a. The disciples might have needed an example of continued perseverance (cf. Lk 18:1-5).
 - b. The woman might have needed her faith put to the test (cf. James 1:3).
 2. Jesus answered his disciple’s request to send her away (cf. 14:15).
 - a. He was sent to minister to the nation of Israel (cf. Rom 15:8).
 - b. God’s people were often referred to as lost sheep (cf. Isa 53:6; Jer 50:6; Ez. 34:5, 6).
- D. She persisted to the point of falling down before Him (25).
1. The word “worship” here means to kneel down before or prostrate oneself in order to give homage or obedience (cf. Deut 9:18, 25; Jn 11:32; Rev 22:8).
 2. She knew whom to turn to for help, “Lord, help me” (cf. Heb 4:16).
 - a. No one can help us in times of trouble like Jesus.
 - b. No one can comfort and console like our suffering Savior (cf. Lk 24:46).
- Note: All of life is *not* worship (cf. Gen 22:5; Ex 4:31; I Sam 1:3a, 19a; Ps 95:6; Jn 4:20; Acts 8:27).
- E. Jesus answers her with the hard facts concerning His ministry (26, 27).
1. “Not meet” means not suitable or not proper (cf. 7:6).
 - a. We see in Mark’s account that the time would come for the Gentiles by the use of the word “first” (cf. 10:5, 6; Mk 7:27; Eph 2:12).

- b. “Dogs” is a term generally used in contempt (cf. 1 Sam 17:43; 2 Kgs 8:13; Isa 56:10, 11).
 - 2. Her reply was “Truth, Lord”.
 - a. This is amazing. How many women would have turned and gone away in anger?
 - b. We may see here that Jesus was not using the term in contempt when He said “dogs”.
 - c. She understood it to refer to pets and animals having to wait until the meal was finished before they would get the leftovers.
- F. Jesus commends her faith (28).
 - 1. Her persistence had won for her daughter the healing she desired (cf. Ps 27:13, 14).
 - a. In addition to her persistence, she also used intelligent reasoning (27).
 - b. She understood that what she was seeking was but a crumb from the Master’s table (cf. 5:45; Eph 3:9).
 - 2. Her daughter was healed from that very hour.
 - a. The woman’s faith caused her daughter to be healed (cf. 8:3; Lk 18:42, 43; Jn 4:50-53).
 - b. Interestingly, the greatest examples of faith during the life of Christ were Gentiles (cf. 8:10).
- IV. Jesus heals near the Sea of Galilee (29-31).
 - A. Jesus leaves the Mediterranean coast and journeys southeast to more familiar country (29) (cf. 4:18).
 - 1. He goes up on a mountain and sits down (cf. 5:1).
 - 2. This was His normal posture for teaching (cf. 13:2).
 - B. A great many people came to be healed (30, 31).
 - 1. Since He came from Decapolis He was on the east side of the sea (cf. Mk 7:31).
 - 2. They took advantage of this rare visit to have Him heal their sick.
 - a. He had only visited this area once before and then they had asked Him to leave (cf. 8:34).
 - b. This shows they have learned from their hastiness.
 - 3. The result of the healings was that God was glorified.
 - a. He is called the God of Israel (cf. Gen 32:28; 33:20; Ex 24:10).
 - b. That would be changed very soon (cf. 28:19; Acts 17:30).
- V. Jesus feeds the four thousand (32-39).
 - A. Jesus shows His compassion again toward the multitude (32, 33) (cf Heb 4:15).
 - 1. The “three days” doesn’t mean they were without food for that time. but had been with Him for the three days and had run out of supplies.
 - a. Many had come from long distances and couldn’t make it home without some food (cf. Mk 8:3).
 - b. Referring here to physical, it can also mean spiritual (cf. Gal 6:9; Heb 12:3, 5).
 - 2. The Apostles wanted to know where they could get enough food to feed the multitude.
 - a. This is a strange question in light of chapter 14 (cf. 14:19, 20).

- b. Surely they couldn't have forgotten His feeding of the five thousand. Maybe they didn't expect a repeat of this type of miracle in the same region.
 - c. There was still some confusion on the part of the disciples (cf. 16:9, 10).
- B. When Jesus inquired, they found seven loaves and a few small fishes (34-38).
 - 1. The multitude had to sit on the ground here as opposed to the grassy mountainside before (cf. Jn 6:10).
 - a. Jesus gave thanks for the food and passed among the multitude (cf. 26:26, 27; Acts 27:35).
 - b. We have an example to follow in thanking God for the food we eat (cf. 1 Tim 4:4).
 - 2. After the multitude had eaten they took up seven baskets full of broken pieces of food.
 - a. The word "baskets" here is different than the word in chapter 14.
 - b. This is the word for a much larger basket (cf. Acts 9:25).
 - 3. The multitude was four thousand plus all the women and children.
- C. After He sent the multitude away they sailed to the area of Magdala (39).
 - 1. This is a city located on the west shore of the Sea of Galilee (cf. Mk 8:10).
 - 2. The idea of going to the "coasts" means the general vicinity of that city (cf. 2:16; Acts 13:50).
 - 3. The lesson is the same in these two miracles.
 - a. The power to accomplish this feat came from above.
 - b. The compassion of Jesus shows us God's loving and tender hand upon us.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.