

Matthew 15:21-39

- REVIEW...

- o FIRST - The Presentation of the King – **Matthew 1-7**
- o SECOND – The Ministry of the King – **Matthew 8-18**
- o Washing hands...
 - SCRIBES and PHARISEES came from Jerusalem to challenge Jesus a FOURTH time...
 - Why did His DISCIPLES not obey the TRADITION of the elders - washing hands...
 - Jesus responded - why did they NOT obey the command of God because of their TRADITIONS...
 - The Law said Honor your Father and Mother [care for them when old] - **I Timothy 5:8**
 - HYPOCRITES - they had rejected the WORD - and they rejected God!
- o From the Heart...
 - Jesus turned to the CROWD - it is NOT what goes in that DEFILES [κοινώω] a man...
 - The PHARISEES were BLIND leaders - who were NOT to be followed [into the pit]
 - Peter did NOT get it [parable] - he had been taught his whole life what he ate mattered...
 - Therefore Jesus explained - whatever we eat just passes through us...
 - But what comes from our MOUTH - is from our HEART - and that is what DEFILES us!

- 1ST – LESSON IN FAITH... vs. 21-28

- o 1st - Leaving Israel... vs. 21
 - Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon!
 - Challenging TRADITIONS had really upset the PHARISEES [ready to kill Jesus again]
 - Therefore - Jesus LEFT the DECAPOLIS [eastern Galilee]
 - And went to Tyre and Sidon - 50 kilometers north west of the Galilee [Lebanon]
 - Where the PHARISEES had little to no influence!
 - Jesus KNEW these men would CRUCIFY Him - and He would LET them - **John 10:18**
 - But it was NOT His time - Jesus had to die on a SPECIFIC date [Passover] - **Daniel 9:26**
 - Until that day He would play a game of hide and seek with the RELIGIOUS leaders!
- o 2nd - Not Jewish... vs. 22
 - Syro-Phoenician...
 - Behold a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him saying!
 - LOOK [imperative] - do NOT miss WHO came to see Jesus when they arrived...
 - WOMAN [γυνή] - women in antiquity were often treated as less important - **Galatians 3:28**
 - CANAAN [כנען] - a reference to the original PAGAN inhabitants of the Land...
 - Mark adds that she was GREEK - Syro-Phoenician [Syrian] by birth - **Mark 7:26**
 - And from that REGION - removing any doubt this woman was NOT a Jew!
 - Jewish greeting...
 - Have mercy on me O Lord - Son of David!
 - FIRST - she submits to Jesus authority – calling Him Lord [κύριος]
 - It is possible she actually used the name of God [יהוה] - often translated as [κύριος]
 - SECOND - she gives Him a MESSIANIC Title – the Son of David...
 - She was NOT a Jew – but she knew Jesus was the promised MESSIAH - **II Samuel 7:13**
 - Her request...
 - My daughter is severely demon-possessed!
 - Her DAUGHTER was controlled [present] by an EVIL [κακός] DEMON [δαιμονίζομαι]
 - We are NOT told HOW or WHY this happened - only that Jesus was the SOLUTION!
 - Often we make the mistake of focusing our PROBLEM...
 - But when we focus on the PROBLEM – we are not looking at the SOLUTION...

- It does NOT matter what the problem is – Jesus is the ANSWER!
- o 3rd - Ignored... vs. 23-24
 - Not giving up... vs. 23
 - He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him saying:
 - Send her away for she cries out after us!
 - Jesus refused to say even ONE word to her - IGNORING her plea...
 - But she would NOT go away - she came crying [present] to the DISCIPLES to help...
 - Yet the DISCIPLES did NOT want to help her - they were ANNOYED by her...
 - And kept coming [imperfect] to Jesus - DEMANDING [imperative] He send her away!
 - Jesus told a PARABLE of an UNRIGHTEOUS judge – **Luke 18:2-5**
 - A widow came to the judge DAILY asking for revenge against her enemy...
 - But the judge would not listen to her - he did not care about her problems...
 - After a while he thought - I do not fear God or man - but this widow keeps coming...
 - She was driving him CRAZY with her constant requests - so he gave in!
 - Often when we pray we give up after a week - or a month - or a year...
 - But God does NOT call us just to pray - God calls us to be a people of PRAYER...
 - We need to be persistent in seeking the Lord – do NOT give up!
 - **Matthew 7:7** – “I say to you [keep] asking and it will be given to you. [Keep] seeking and you will find. [Keep] knocking and it will be opened to you.”
 - Only Israel... vs. 24
 - He answered and said: I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel!
 - Jesus answered the DISCIPLES - He was called to find LOST [ἀπόλλυμι] sheep - **Luke 15:4**
 - But NOT just any SHEEP - specifically to those from the house of ISRAEL!
 - When we look at the Bible - it seem to be a VERY Jewish book...
 - Beginning with Abraham - the whole Old Testament follows only ONE nation - **Genesis 12**
 - All of the PROPHETS - all of the KINGS - even all of the APOSTLES were Jews!
 - But that is NOT the truth - the Bible is all about Jesus...
 - Abraham believed - so the Messiah would come from Israel - **Genesis 22:18**
 - David believed - so the Messiah would come from Judah - **II Samuel 7:13**
 - God did NOT ignore the rest of the world and ONLY care about Israel...
 - The Bible just focuses on Israel - because Jesus came through them!
 - **Romans 1:16** - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ - for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes - for the Jew FIRST and also for the [everyone else].”
- o 4th - Insulted... vs. 25-27
 - Little dogs... vs. 25-26
 - Then she came and worshiped Him saying: Lord help me.
 - He answered saying: It is not good to take the children bread and throw it to the little dogs!
 - The WOMAN was not deterred - she came worshiping [imperfect] Jesus...
 - And PLEADED [imperative] with the Lord [κύριος] - to HELP [βοηθός]
 - But Jesus replied - it is NOT good [καλός] to give the KIDS [Jews] food to the DOGS...
 - The term DOG [κύων] was used by Jews to refer to GENTILES - **Matthew 7:6**
 - But Jesus uses the word PUPPIES [κυνάριον] - which is not as HARSH!
 - If Hallel does something wrong I use her full name: Hallel Miguel Hinchey...
 - But when I am being playful with her - I will call her Hallelita [little Hallel]
 - Crumbs... vs. 27
 - She said: Yes Lord - yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters table!
 - The WOMAN was NOT offended - instead HUMBLY agreed - YES Lord [κύριος]
 - But she noted the PUPPIES do eat the CRUMBS that fall from the MASTERS table...

- Anyone who has a DOG knows how true this is...
- The dogs love to wait under the table - ready to grab any unwanted SCRAP that falls down!
- Why does God help us - because we DESERVE it...
- God does not choose the WISE - He picks the FOOLISH [μωρός] - **I Corinthians 1:27**
- I know people who left church when they heard this - chosen because we are MORONS!
- It takes a lot of HUMILITY to admit who we are...
- We must admit we are MORONS [μωρός] – and we NEED help...
- True HUMILITY is coming to the place where we realize we NEED Jesus!
- **II Corinthians 12:9** - “[His] strength is made perfect in [our] weakness.”

o 5th - Great Faith... vs. 28

- Healing...
 - Then Jesus answered and said to her: O woman great is your faith!
 - Let it be to you as you desire. And her daughter was healed from that very hour!
 - Jesus replied - woman you have MEGA [μέγας] faith...
 - According to what she WANTED [θέλω] - it would be DONE [imperative]
 - In that very HOUR her daughter was HEALED [passive]!
- Lesson...
 - Jesus was NOT unwilling to help this woman...
 - Just the opposite - it appears He ONLY came to Tyre and Sidon to find her...
 - He wanted to use her to give His DISCIPLES a LESSON about GREAT [μέγας] faith!
 - GREAT faith – is NOT about to who we are [Jew or Gentile]
 - GREAT faith – does NOT give up – but stubbornly seeks Jesus...
 - GREAT faith – has humility - knowing that we are NOT the answer...
 - Great faith - is what Jesus is willing to TRAVEL to faraway places to FIND!
 - **II Chronicles 16:9** – “The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.” [NLT]

● 2ND - LESSON IN METHODS... vs. 29-31

o 1st - Feet of Jesus... vs. 29-30

- Decapolis... vs. 29
 - Jesus departed from there - skirted the Sea of Galilee.
 - And went up on the mountain and sat down there!
 - Having met the Syro-Phoenician WOMAN - it was time to GO...
 - Jesus left Tyre and Sidon - and returned to the DECAPOLIS [Galilee] - **Mark 7:31**
 - The same place where He had healed the possessed men [legion] - **Mark 5:9**
 - The same place where the PHARISEES had challenged Him about TRADITION - **Matthew 15:2**
 - Therefore - He went up the mountain - still keeping a low profile!
- Cast down...
 - Then great multitudes came to Him having with them the lame - blind - mute - maimed.
 - And many others. They laid them down at Jesus feet and He healed them!
 - For a SECOND time - they brought MANY kinds of SICK people to Jesus - **Matthew 14:35**
 - And they CAST [ρίπτω] them at His FEET - and He healed [θεραπεύω] them!
 - Are we needlessly carrying a BURDEN – struggling under a heavy weight...
 - It does NOT matter what the PROBLEM is - Financial - Relational - Physical...
 - Throw them down at the feet of Jesus – He is WILLING and ABLE to take them all!
 - **Matthew 11:28** - “Come to Me all you who labor and are heavy laden.”

o 2nd - Deaf and Mute - **Mark 7:31-37**

- Spitting...
 - One man in particular was both DEAF and DUMB [unable to speak]
 - Then Jesus put His fingers in his ears - and spit and put it on his tongue...
 - Perhaps as a way of saying to the man [who could not hear] WHAT Jesus would HEAL...
 - But it taught another LESSON - God does not ALWAYS do things the same way!
 - Imagine if Jesus always HEALED in the same manner [this happened once]
 - We would go around poking our fingers in ears – spitting in mouths [yuck]
 - Rather than seeing it is NOT about HOW – but KNOWING that Jesus is the ANSWER!
- Not the method...
 - We tend to define church by WHATS - rather than WHYS...
 - We define OUR church - by worship on SUNDAY - with PRAISE songs...
 - While OTHER churches - worship on a different day - sing OTHER kinds of songs...
 - Getting caught up in METHOD – and forgetting the point is to KNOW Christ...
 - God is NOT limited to ONE way - there is a beauty in DIVERSITY within the BODY...
 - Many FLAVORS - to reach a VARIETY of people - but all with ONE Lord!
 - **I Corinthians 12:27** - “[We] are the body of Christ.”
- o 3rd - Glory to God... vs. 31
 - The multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking - the maimed made whole.
 - The lame walking - and the blind seeing - and they glorified the God of Israel!
 - When the CROWD saw what Jesus had done...
 - Healing EVERY kind of SICKNESS they brought to Him - they were AMAZED...
 - And they gave GLORY [δοξαζω] - not to Jesus - but to the God of Israel...
 - Because the SPIRIT always points people to the SON - **John 16:14**
 - And the SON always points people to the FATHER - **John 16:4**
 - We see a LOT of things in the church today - and rightfully question it...
 - People falling over in the spirit - fundraising drives - smoke and laser concerts!
 - With all this DIVERSITY within the church - and how do we KNOW what is from God...
 - The answer is SIMPLE - the RESULT will be people will give GLORY to God!
- 3rd - LESSON IN PROVISION... vs. 32-39
 - o 1st - Second time around... vs. 32
 - Hungry people...
 - Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said: I have compassion on the multitude.
 - They have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat.
 - And I do not want to send them away hungry - lest they faint on the way!
 - The CROWD was there with Jesus [προσμένω] on the MOUNTAIN for THREE days...
 - The whole time they had NOTHING [subjunctive] to eat...
 - Jesus was concerned - if He SENT them home without FOOD - they would NOT make it!
 - Another lesson...
 - Jesus was NOT asking a question - He was preparing another LESSON...
 - It happened to be a REPEAT - just in case they DISCIPLES missed the FIRST time...
 - This would be the SECOND time He fed thousands - with just a LITTLE - **Matthew 14:21**
 - The more time we spend in CHURCH - reading our BIBLES...
 - The more we notice - there is a LOT of repetition...
 - But God does NOT stutter - He does NOT want to have a THICKER Bible...
 - If something is said TWICE - it is because it is VERY important...
 - If something is repeated - we likely did NOT get it the FIRST time around!
 - **Philippians 3:1** - “I never get tired of telling you these things. I do it to safeguard your faith.”
 - o 2nd - No Food... vs. 33

- To many people...
 - Then His disciples said to Him:
 - Where could we get enough bread in the wilderness to fill such a great multitude?
 - The DISCIPLES saw the people - over FOUR thousand men [plus women and children]
 - They skeptically asked - where could they get enough for so many in the WILDERNESS...
 - It is EASY to be hard on the DISCIPLES - how quickly they FORGOT...
 - This was actually a SMALLER crowd than the one Jesus had ALREADY fed!
- Doubting the Lord...
 - When Israel left Egypt - and the armies of Pharaoh followed - God split an OCEAN...
 - Yet it ONLY took THREE days for them to begin to COMPLAIN - **Exodus 15:22-24**
 - They had no WATER [God just parted an ocean] - yet they DOUBTED the LORD!
 - It seems no matter how much the Lord has done for us - we FORGET when trials come...
 - As if somehow God has changed - He took care of us before - but maybe NOT this time...
 - When we face the challenges of life - we ONLY need look back to see...
 - God has ALWAYS been faithful to take care of our needs - and He ALWAYS will be!
 - **Hebrews 13:8** - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday - today - and forever."
- o 3rd - Give it to Jesus... vs. 34
 - Jesus said to them: How many loaves do you have? And they said: Seven and a few little fish!
 - The DISCIPLES only had SEVEN loaves of bread - and a few LITTLE fish [ἰχθύδιον]
 - Again - MORE than what they had when Jesus fed the FIVE thousand [five loaves]
 - Yet they were still looking at what THEY had - too LITTLE to feed so MANY...
 - But that was not the point - they just needed to give it ALL to the LORD!
 - When we look at our ABILITY - our MONEY - our TIME...
 - The answer will always be the same - we do NOT have enough...
 - But we are looking the WRONG way - we are focused on the PROBLEM...
 - We should instead be LOOKING to Jesus - because He is the SOLUTION...
 - Take ALL we have - no matter how LITTLE - and just TRUST Him!
- o 4th - Giving Thanks... vs. 35-36
 - So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground.
 - And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks.
 - Broke them and gave them to His disciples - and the disciples gave to the multitude!
 - Jesus gave THANKS for what He KNEW was about to happen [God always provides]
 - THANKS [εὐχαριστέω] - where we get the word EUCHARIST...
 - The same word used at the LAST supper [body and blood] - **Luke 22:17**
 - And He gave to His DISCIPLES - who then passed in onto the CROWD!
 - God PROVIDING for our daily needs was NEVER in question - **Matthew 6:33**
 - The question is do we PASS on what Jesus has GIVEN to us...
 - Do we give people the EUCHARIST - the HOPE that God does not just take care of TODAY...
 - We have a God who gave Himself [cross] - to give us HEAVEN!
- o 5th - Satisfied... vs. 37-39
 - Seven Baskets... vs. 37 / 38
 - So they all ate and were filled.
 - Now those who ate were four thousand men besides women and children.
 - They took up seven large baskets full of the fragments that were left!
 - ALL [πᾶς] FOUR thousand people [plus woman and kids] ate until they were FULL...
 - And there were even seven LARGE baskets [σπυρίς] left over...
 - Because God has NO limits - He is more than able to PROVIDE!
 - There is a and ASTEROID [Psyche] just beyond Mars...

- But it has enough GOLD [and other metals] to give every person on earth 5 TRILLION pesos...
- And that is just from one ROCK - there are MILLIONS more just in our solar system...
- Imagine how much WEALTH exists in a UNIVERSE - created with just a WORD - **Genesis 1:1**
- God is NOT poor - and He has NO problem taking care of every NEED...
- But He does NOT tend to give us a lot of EXTRA - because we would forget about Him...
- Therefore we need to be REMINDED - a LOT - that we serve the God who PROVIDES!
- Magdala... vs. 39
 - He sent away the multitude - got into the boat - and came to the region of Magdala!
 - Having taken care of the HUNGRY crowd - they could go HOME...
 - Jesus got back into a boat and sailed to the city of MAGDALA...
 - MAGDALA [מַגְדָּלָא] - only here NT - the home of Mary Magdalene - **Luke 8:2**
 - A small fishing village on the EAST side of the Galilee [near Capernaum]
 - As Jesus prepared to confront the SCRIBES and PHARISEES once again!