

Journey Through Matthew

Matthew – Chapter 14 - 15 – Jesus heals the gentile Woman’s daughter

Scriptures

Matthew 16:25-26

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me will find it. What will it benefit a man if he gains the whole world yet loses his life?

Ephesians 2:19-22

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

This week we will learn...

- That the teaching of the Pharisees is poisonous.
- Jesus can heal from a distance.
- Parents have authority over their children to cast out demons and heal sicknesses in Christ’s name
- Christ is the Rock that the church is built on
- Jesus expects His disciples to live a life of sacrifice

Recap on previous week 14

1. The brutality of Herod the tetrarch
2. While in prison John doubted who Jesus was
3. Jesus provided food for the crowds. He had compassion on them
4. Don’t doubt. Jesus walks on water and is called “the Son of God.”

The False Teaching of the Pharisees – Matthew 15:1-20

We have already covered in previous weeks the teaching of the Pharisees.

Jesus ends this piece of teaching by using logic to totally defeat the bad and poisonous teaching of the Pharisees. By doing this, He is showing to the people listening, that the Pharisees teaching is bogus and bunk.

“but eating with unwashed hands does not defile a person.”

Defiling is a strong word in the OT. It can have a linkage to getting demonized in the OT i.e. Leviticus 18, 20. So it is interesting that the next story is of a deliverance of a girl.

Healing of a Gentile's little girl – Matthew 15:21-28 (Mark 7:24-30)

“man will come from the east and the west” (Matthew 8:11)

Incredible parallel to Matthew 8:5-13, the healing of the Centurion's servant.
Jesus letting us know that non-Jews will be included into the true Israel.
Jesus commends the Centurion's great faith.

Jesus had placed a temporary restriction on His ministry during His life in Matthew 10:5-6, “These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” However, we see Jesus purposefully going to a Gentile city and showing mercy and compassion on a Gentile woman and her daughter. “Mercy triumphs over judgement.”

Jesus was always moved by **mercy** and **compassion**. So should we.

Daimonizomai (Matthew 15:21)

Greek: to be seriously trouble by, vexed, possessed, to have a demon

Includes both physical, mental and emotional illnesses: lunacy, epilepsy, melancholy (depression), blindness, mute, deafness, physically disabled, bent over, loss of speech, insanity, self-harming

Appears some 13 times in the KJV text

We have covered this Greek word **Daimonizomai** before, but it is worth repeating to help our understanding of the Kingdom of God. Here we see a classic example of how different bible translations have translated this word differently. However, these different translations of the word create a different understanding of what it means to have a demon. For example:

HCSB

My daughter is cruelly tormented by a demon.

ESV

my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.

NIV and NASB

My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.

KJV (ASV)

my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

Being possessed is different from being seriously troubled by a demon. A person can be possessed by Jesus, but also be seriously troubled (vexed) by a demon. This to me is a more accurate picture of the problem of believers in Christ having demons. However, Jesus has given His church the power and authority to cast out demons from one another.

What would you do if a woman came to you and said my son or daughter has a demon that it making him very sick?

Q. What would you do?...

A. Answers from the group.

This points to the natural and logical question, “How do you know if someone is afflicted by a demon?” Let us take a look at the nature and character of demons.

Demons are agents of Satan. They can also be called unclean spirits. They may be fallen angels or are related to them. Demons have the following characteristics:

1. Serve Satan (Matthew 12:24)
2. Are living; can hear & respond (Luke 4:34 -35, Mark 3:11-12)
3. Have intelligence and knowledge (Luke 4:34, Mark 1:23-24)
4. Have emotions, demons tremble, fearful of torture (Matthew 8:29-31, James 2:19)
5. Have spiritual substance and seek a body to act through (Luke 10:19, 8:33, Revelation 16:13)
6. Have a will (Matthew 12:43-44, Luke 11:24-26, Mark 5:11-13)
7. Drive and torment people (Mark 5:5)
8. Give supernatural strength (Luke 8:29)
9. Have specific job functions - to bring infirmity (Luke 13:11) and slavery to fear (Romans 8:15); to promote lying (2 Chronicles 18:22), jealousy (Numbers 5:14) and deception (1 Timothy 4:1)
10. Can work in groups and with an authority structure (Luke 8:2, Ephesians 6:12)
11. Are legalistic and know where they have rights (Acts 19:15, Ephesians 4:27)
12. Recognize the authority of Jesus and know their end (Matthew 25:41, Matthew 8:29)
13. Do not die when humans die (Numbers 19:11)
14. The inevitable end for Satan and his demons is the lake of fire (Revelation 20:7-15, Matthew 25:41-46)

Symptoms or possible effects of demonization

1. Torment
2. Driven-ness, sometimes through an inner voice
3. Inability to change to Godly ways, difficulties in worship
4. Death wishes and suicidal tendencies
5. Compulsions, despising, overwhelming emotional disturbance, antisocial behavior
6. Disease
7. Disabilities i.e. deafness, mute, blindness, bent over
8. Irrational fears
9. Occult attraction and power
10. Attraction to death and horror

Possible entry points of demons in children

1. Shock and trauma and fears – e.g. an accident that overwhelms the child's emotions
2. Seeing or reading something of horror e.g. horror movies, films that glorify witchcraft, sex, a dead person
3. Child's sin
4. Prolonged illness
5. Abuse – physical, sexual, conflict in the home, un-loving parents, rejection, deprivation
6. Occult - Dabbling with the occult, no matter how innocent it looks e.g. Ouija board game, palm reading, occult games, blood brothers, trying to cast a spell, trying silly dares
7. Inherited. A generational spirit visited upon the child.
8. Lack of love

Encounters of Jesus with Satan and demons

1. The temptations in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13 Luke 4:1-13)
2. Healing and Miracles
3. The unclean spirit in the synagogue (Luke 4:31-37, Mark 1:21-28)
4. The blind and dumb demoniac (Matthew 12:22-29, Mark 3:22-27, Luke 11: 14-23)
5. The epileptic boy (Mark 9:14-29, Matthew 17:14-21, Luke 9:37-43)
6. The Gadarene demoniac (Mark 5:1-20, Matthew 8:28-34, Luke 8:26-39)
7. The Syro-Phoenician woman's daughter (Mark 7:24-30-28, Matthew 15:21-28)
8. The woman with a spirit of infirmity (Luke 13:10-17)
9. Simon Peter's mother-in-law (Luke 4:38-39)

Dogs

Gentiles are often referred to in the scriptures as dogs. There are some interesting comments that the word puppy could also be used here, since puppies and household pets are often at the dinner tables of their masters. Wild dogs would be far away from a place of eating.

Children's bread

Note that Jesus refers to healing and deliverance as the children's (true sons and daughters of Abraham) bread (the most basic of daily food, "Give us today our daily bread.")

The woman asks for a little bit of bread. She was asking her Messiah for grace. And Jesus gave it.

Perhaps there is a nice parallel to the gentiles (Ruth) gleaning the fields of the Jews (Boaz) and picking up the little pieces left over. After all, Jesus' genealogy includes both Ruth and Boaz. We see here the kindness of our God. Able to triumph love, compassion and kindness over law.

Persistence in asking

"Ask and you shall receive."

Luke 11:5-13 – "your shameless audacity..."

Old Testament examples of interceding for someone:

1. Moses prays for Miriam’s healing – Numbers 12:13
 - a. “So Moses cried out to the Lord, “Please, God, heal her!”
2. Exodus 17 – Moses intercedes for the battle by continuously lifting up his arms
3. Abraham asks Jesus to spare Sodom and Gomorrah if 10 righteous people are found in the city! Genesis 18:22-22

Deliverance by Proxy (distance)

- This passage teaches us that deliverance of evil spirits can be ordered with a word.
- Perseverance, tenacity and intelligence helped win the day for this woman. She knew that her Messiah was moved by compassion.
 - **Luke 11:5-13 – Jesus teaches on prayer, ask, keep asking, good Father.**
 - “... yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.” Luke 11:8
 - Ask and it will be given to you
 - Your Father in heaven will give you a fish when you ask Him
 - Our Father in heaven gives good gifts to them that ask... Ask Him this day for healing for your children
 - Ask God for His Holy Spirit
- 2 Kings 5 – Naaman the Gentile commander is healed by proxy by washing in the Jordan river.
- Faith is always needed, and like the gentile Centurion, this woman exhibits great faith!
- In Mark’s gospel account the Greek word for the girl is “little girl”, she was young
 - This throws an interesting question about, “What age can we order a demon out of someone under your charge?”
 - There does seem to be an age factor here. Teenagers can get quite willful and Jesus will never go against your will. i.e. if you don’t want to be healed, He won’t force a healing on you. So... we might learn from this story that the young age of the girl, who was under the authority of her mom, had a bearing on the successful deliverance and healing of the girl.
 - However, I believe it is always worth trying to pray from a distance for a loved one to get deliverance.
- The Apostle Paul also healed by proxy, as the handkerchiefs that had touched his body were carried to people who were healed.
 - “God did extraordinary miracles through the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and the diseases and evil spirits left them.” Acts 19:11-12

REMEMBER

As followers of Christ, He has given us power and authority over EVERY unclean spirit and demon. Take authority over the unclean spirit and order it to leave the child in Jesus Christ’s name.

How to do this

1. Pray and ask God for wisdom and discernment. Get on your knees
2. Identify the sickness or torment in your child. Try and name it i.e. sleeplessness, torment, fear
3. In a room separate from your child or quietly under your breath as your child is sleeping
4. Take authority over the oppressing spirit and command it come out of your child, leave him/her and never come back.
5. Ask God to protect your children with angels

“He healed them” – Matthew 15:29-31, 4:23-24, 8:16

A little hidden amongst the feeding of the four thousand, but we are told that Jesus healed the people of every disease and even the deformed were made well! This is supernatural power on a scale rarely seen.

Commentators tell us that this was among the Gentile towns in Northern Israel, with the reference to “And they gave glory to the **God of Israel**” vs. 31, and is a fitting service after the healing of the Gentile woman’s daughter

How did He heal them? We don’t know, but it would appear from the text that this was an amazing supernatural time. “They put them (disabled and sick) at His feet, and He healed them.” Was there individual time of counselling with each person, or was power going out from Jesus and healing people all around?

This begs the question, “Why don’t we see this today?” and “Why don’t some people get healed?” In the gospel stories, Jesus healed **every** single person who came to Him for healing”

The teaching (yeast) of the Pharisees - Matthew 16:1-12

The sign of our times...

1. Marriage. Traditional biblical marriage is being eroded by secular and church teaching that tickles people’s ears. Again, go back to the scriptures. What does the Bible say about marriage? Not what a new oral tradition or book says, but what does the Bible say? Jesus kept pointing the Pharisees back to the Word of God, Moses’ seat is where you would read the book of Moses

The teaching (yeast) of the Pharisees was so bad, that Jesus continuously warns His disciples against their teaching.

In Chapter 23, Jesus again teaches some of His harshest rebuke of the Pharisees. This should be a BIG warning to all of us to be on our guard against teaching, given to us through the

world, our church leaders, church structures, books and teaching that does not originate in the Word of God.

What areas of teaching are off in the church today?

Peter Declares that Jesus is the Messiah – Matthew 16:13-20

Matthew 16:18

Peter the Petros or Cephas – the small stone

And

Christ the petra – Rock, cleft, ground rock

And I also say to you that you are Peter,[i] and on this rock[j] I will build My church, and the forces[k] of Hades will not overpower it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth is already bound[l] in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth is already loosed[m] in heaven.”

Christ is the Chief Cornerstone

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:19-22

Jesus teaches again on the subject of binding and loosing. Notice it is also linked in the same paragraph to Hades and Heaven. This binding and loosing is a directive to the body of the Christ, the Church. He has given us power and authority over powers of darkness. Notice the link to Matthew 18:18-20 and the use of binding and loosing in matters of church discipline.

Q. What is the extent of binding?

What will it benefit a man if he gains the whole world yet loses his life? – Matthew 16:24-28

Jesus instructs His disciples to take up their cross and follow Him.

What does this mean?

A life of:

Self-sacrifice

Torture / painful

Hardships

Rewards for what we have done for Jesus

Resurrection Sunday – it is not all bad! There is GREAT reward in following Jesus.

Acts 3 and 4 – Peter heals a crippled man through faith in Jesus Christ and gets attacked by the Pharisees.

Malachi 4:5-6 (Matthew 17:11, Acts 3:21)– God will send the prophet Elijah to turn the hearts of parents to their children. What a travesty that at the moment (2019) many in our country are turning against their own children and killing them. Unfortunately, God ends the book of Malachi with a warning of sending total destruction on a land (nation) that does not love and protect their children and the children love their parents.

What dreadful consequences are the people of my land sowing? What will the harvest be of this ungodly harvest?

“Remember the instruction of Moses My servant, the statutes and ordinances I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. Look, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome Day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

In many ways Jesus is the fulfillment of Elijah’s coming. He will restore all things, and indeed in many ways He has already done this.

Acts 3:23

“Anyone who does not listen to Him (Jesus) will be completely cut off from their people.”

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