

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

LESSON 1: MATTHEW 15



JUNE 29, 2014

GOALS FOR THE QUARTER

- Understand the events of the second half of the Life of Christ period as recorded in the gospel of Matthew
- Recognize Jesus' fulfillment of prophecies given in the Old Testament
- Learn how to improve ourselves spiritually by observing Jesus' actions and taking his teachings to heart

TODAY'S KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The scribes and Pharisees continued to criticize and argue with Jesus; this conflict continued to escalate as time went on
- Traditions which are not aligned with the commandments of God are not righteous
- The source of sin is the heart; if we are to be clean, we must cleanse our hearts
- Jesus has compassion on his disciples

MATTHEW 15:1-20

- Traditions of the Pharisees
 - Could not look in mirrors (pull gray hair)
 - Could not wear false teeth (pick them up)
 - Could not spit on dirt (cultivate soil)
- Tradition of hand washing
 - From Exodus 30:17-21 or Leviticus 11:24-40
 - By 200 B.C., Pharisees enforced hand-washing on all Jews (Mishnah, 186 pages)

MATTHEW 15:1-20

- Pharisees upset by the disciples not washing
- Jesus dealt with the Pharisees' hypocrisy
 - Tradition of Corban (see Mark 7)
 - Neglected the commandment of God by selfishly following their own traditions
 - Isaiah 29:13
- **The Pharisees were offended by these accusations, escalating the hostility (v. 12)**

MATTHEW 15:1-20

- **The Pharisees' traditions were sinful, as they went against God's commands**
- Jesus took the opportunity to explain that defilement originates from the heart, not from a failure to wash one's hands
 - The heart of a man is where evil thoughts and desires originate
 - Eventually, those evil thoughts and desires are manifested as actions (James 1:14-15)

MATTHEW 15:1-20

- **Therefore, in order for the Pharisees to be clean, their hearts first needed to be cleansed of its selfish, impure desires**
- We need to be careful to follow the commandments of God, not allowing our traditions or the traditions of society to take precedence over our need to fulfill God's commandments

MATTHEW 15:21-28

- Jesus withdrew from Israel to the region around the cities of Tyre and Sidon
- A Canaanite woman (Gentile) came and begged Jesus to heal her demoniac daughter
- Jesus metaphorically told her that he was there for the Jews, not the Gentiles
- Eventually, because of her faith, Jesus granted her request, healing her daughter

MATTHEW 15:29-39

- Jesus returned to the Sea of Galilee and began healing people as they came to him
- **After three days, Jesus was going to send them away, but he felt compassion for them, as they had nothing to eat**
- From seven loaves of bread and a few small fish, Jesus fed more than 4000 people
- Following this, Jesus left the region

TODAY'S KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The scribes and Pharisees continued to criticize and argue with Jesus; this conflict continued to escalate as time went on
- Traditions which are not aligned with the commandments of God are not righteous
- The source of sin is the heart; if we are to be clean, we must cleanse our hearts
- Jesus has compassion on his disciples