

Calvary Chapel on the Horizon  
March 12, 2023  
Matthew chapter 15 “Where is Our Heart”

I. Introduction:

Read: Lam 3:21-23

† In chapter 14, we saw Jesus heal the 5000, walk on water and in...

† Matt 14:34 we saw that they travelled to Gennesaret...this was a region on the western shore of Capernaum...

† And Jesus healed all that came to Him...

II. Priority of the Word

A. The Heart of the Issue

**Mat 15:1-9** Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, 2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. 3 But he answered and said unto them, why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? 4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. 5 But ye say, whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, it is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; 6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus, have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. 7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

† The Jews had a strange tradition of how to “ceremonially” wash their hands...it was not proscribed in the law: either the 10 commandments or the Levitical laws – it was their tradition.

† And they challenged Jesus about the fact that His disciples didn’t follow their tradition – they cared as much about tradition as they did the law.

† The trouble with the idea that “we’ve always done it that way” is that sometimes a “practice” becomes dogmatic, dogma becomes tradition, tradition becomes doctrine and then some hold up doctrine equal to or superseding the Word of God! >> BAD <<

† Jesus doesn’t address the minutia of this issue – He goes straight for the heart of the larger issue...why do you transgress the law to keep tradition?

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- † **Any time we feel like we should follow a tradition when it contradicts scripture...there is a problem >> it's a big problem.**
- † **Examples might be: Praying to other than God, vain repetitions, statues, idols, legalism about the Old Testament, Yoga and new age mysticism, eastern meditation, etc.**
- † **A good test of tradition/dogma vs. the truth of the Bible – if you handed a Bible to someone who had never heard of the church, Jesus or the Bible and had them read it...could they come up with the traditions that some men point to just out of the Bible?**
- † **And Jesus condemns these practices by quoting Isaiah 29:13...their lips honor God but their hearts are far from Him. Often tradition leads us to complacency and away from God.**

**B. Blind Leaders**

**Mat 15:10-14** And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: 11 Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man. 12 Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? 13 But he answered and said, every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. 14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

- † **Take note in v.12, that Jesus was not concerned with political correctness – He was concerned with the Word of God and people's salvation!**
- † **Jesus tells us of condemnation – that those who's hearts aren't His will not spend eternity with God...this is a sad statement regarding those that “check the boxes” they think are getting them into heaven when it is really only by faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior.**

**C. Defilement**

**Mat 15:15-20** Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable. 16 And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? 17 Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? 18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

- † **Jesus clarifies: what defiles a person is what comes out of their mouth because words come from the heart and the dirty heart is the defilement...**

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- † **Words just bear out the condition of the heart...and even if you keep your mouth shut, you know what you're thinking and so does God and so you know if your heart is wrong.**
- † **Our challenge today is to be honest with ourselves and ask God to change our hearts to be more like Him!**

### III. The Syro-Phoenician Woman

#### A. The Scenario

**Mat 15:21-24** Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. 23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. 24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

- † **Jesus left the region of Galilee and traveled some 50 miles NE to the area of Tyre and Sidon...**
- † **All for one person: that's how precious each of us are to God! He will leave the 99 to find the 1**
- † **She cries out to Him but as the objective, “Son of David” acknowledging Him as the Jewish Messiah but not as Lord. There is a distance there...**
- † **And then the disciples asked Him to send her away as though she was bugging them.**

#### B. “Lord”

**Mat 15:25-28** Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. 26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. 27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. 28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

- † **She then comes back but her approach is more familiar...she calls Him “Lord”. It appears she has moved from head knowledge to heart knowledge.**
- † **Jesus is focused on the “Lost sheep of Israel” – the Jews, but the woman persists that even those watching can partake...for our lives are to be lived by faith in the Son of God!**
- † **And Jesus commends her for her persistent faith and grants her petition.**

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† **Rom 9:30-33** What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. 31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. 32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone; 33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumbling stone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

**IV. “The 4000”**

**A. Scenario**

**Mat 15:29-31** And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there. 30 And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: 31 Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

† **So, after blessing the Syro-Phoenician woman and her daughter...Jesus travels back the 50+ miles and healed all that came to Him. Mark 7 tells us this is in the area of Decapolis which was a gentile region...but even so:**

† **It says they glorified God...which is what we just talked about on Wednesday...**

† **Isa 43:7** Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

**B. Compassion**

**Mat 15:32-39** Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way. 33 And his disciples say unto him, whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude? 34 And Jesus saith unto them, how many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes. 35 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. 36 And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. 37 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full. 38 And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children. 39 And he sent away the multitude, and took ship, and came into the coasts of Magdala.

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- † Jesus saw the multitude and had compassion on them...that is God's heart, He desires to extend compassion and mercy to all who will come to Him.
- † We read this and we wonder, perhaps, why the disciples didn't know how Jesus would feed them...was it because these were primarily gentiles and the 5000 were Jews?
- † I think that the disciples, like us, are slow to embrace the faithfulness and love of the Lord towards all people...
- † Maybe we think He only works on the behalf of those who read the Bible much, pray much, serve much...yet these people came to be in His presence and received what He would provide...and the disciples didn't get it.
- † Notice they only had 7 loaves of break (the number of perfection) and yet they ended with 7 baskets of leftovers.
- † They brought what they had to be used by the Lord and when they finished ministering they were left with abundance...that how ministry works.
- † Give the Lord what you have and He will make it enough and bless you for your faithfulness because of His faithfulness!
- † **Heb 6:10-12** For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. 11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: 12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

**V. Conclusion**

**1Co 13:13** And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

- † The underpinning of all that Jesus has done in this chapter is love.
- † Love does not place a heavy yoke on people through tradition...
- † Love seeks out and finds the "1" that Jesus is calling, regardless of their condition.
- † Love has and shows compassion to the broken, lost, hurting & weary: Love never fails...