

MATTHEW 15:21-39

PRAY: For God to give you understanding of His word and how to apply it.

REST: Surrender any distractions to God, knowing that He will take care of them, and choose to focus on Him and His provision.

READ: Through the section once. Some of these situations seem to be very similar to others we have just read. Read again, paying attention to any details or phrases that could set them apart. Consider how these connect and any way you are challenged by this.

Consider & Respond to these questions:

How is Jesus portrayed in this section?

How can you better understand your position and calling as a disciple through this?

What does this say about how God feels about His people? About the nations?

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QUESTIONS FROM SUNDAY

Reflecting on this Sunday's teaching, respond to these questions:

Without even knowing it, we often withhold the gospel from certain people in the world around us. (Example: We may share the gospel with the homeless but not our neighbors) Who are you reluctant to share the gospel with and why?

Do you ever find that you justify yourself before God based on your lack of sin or your good works rather than His mercy and grace? Why do we do this?

As recipients of God's mercy, how can you show mercy in your daily life? Who do you need to show more mercy to?

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

God has been working salvation together from before the earth was made, and He uses His people to show His salvation to the world. This story began with the Israelites, but has now extended to all who are followers of His. This is a blessing, as well as a responsibility. We—regardless of our heritage—are dependent on God for all things, and are given all good things in abundance through Him. When we delight in and share what He has given, He is glorified and His salvation is manifest to those around us.

Humility: Proverbs 18:12; Isaiah 57:15; Micah 6:8; Luke 18:9-14; Romans 11:19-22, 12:14-21; Philippians 2:9-11; James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:5-7

Gentiles: Genesis 28:14; Psalm 22: 27-28; Isaiah 42:1-9, 49:6; Malachi 1:11; Romans 1:16, 15:1-21; Galatians 1:27, 3:7-9; Ephesians 3:5-6

Dependence: 2 Chronicles 20:12; Psalm 127:1-2; Jeremiah 10:23; John 15:4-5; Romans 5:6, 7:18-19; 1 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Corinthians 3:4-6, 4:7-12

Abundance: Psalm 23:5-6, 36:7-9, 86:15; Isaiah 55:1-3; Malachi 3:10-12; Luke 12:15; John 10:10-11; Ephesians 3:20-21; 1 Timothy 1:14-16; 1 Peter 1:3-5

As you read, some questions to think about and respond to are:

How do you understand your position in relationship to God as a Gentile? What is His attitude toward the nations?

Do you approach God with humility? What does that look like in your life?

Are you thankful for God's provision in your life? Do you see yourself as dependent on Him? Why? How do you think this affects your gratitude and humility?

What does abundance look like to you? Do you experience abundance?

To MEMORIZE: MATTHEW 15:30-31
