### Matthew

## Chapter 15

1It was sometime later that some Pharisees and Scribes came from JeruSalem to see Jesus, and they asked him:  
  
 2‘Why are you allowing your disciples to overstep the traditions of the elders?  
  
 ‘For example, they don’t wash their hands before they eat bread!’  
  
3But [Jesus] said to them:  
  
 ‘Then, why do you overstep the Commands of God with your traditions? 4For God told you to honor your fathers and mothers, and to have those who speak badly to their fathers or mothers put to death!  
  
 5‘Yet you're telling your fathers and mothers that all you might have to give to them is already [dedicated] as a gift [to God]. 6So [what you’re really saying], is that you don’t have to honor your parents at all. And when you do this, you’re voiding the word of God with your traditions.  
  
 7‘You hypocrites! How well IsaiAh prophesied about you, when he said:  
  
 8‘Although they offer Me praise with their lips,  
 They’re far away from Me in their hearts!  
 9So it’s in vain that they come to bow before Me,  
 Since they’re teaching the ideas and instructions of men.’  
 [Isaiah 29:13]  
  
10Then he called the crowds closer and said to them:  
  
 ‘Listen and understand… 11It isn’t the things that go into a man’s mouth that dirty him, it’s the things that come out of his mouth that pollute him!’  
  
12Well later, the disciples came up to him and said:  
  
 ‘Don’t you know that the Pharisees were stumbled by what you said?’  
  
13But he replied:  
  
 ‘Anything that my heavenly Father didn’t plant will be uprooted. 14So just let them go, for they’re blind guides! And if a blind man leads a blind man, they’ll both fall into a pit.’  
  
15Then Peter said:  
  
 ‘Well then; please explain the meaning of that parable to us.’  
  
16And [Jesus] asked:  
  
 ‘Don’t you get the point? 17Don’t you realize that whatever you put into your mouth just goes into your belly and then into the sewer?  
  
 18‘However, the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart… These are the things that dirty a man. 19For out of the heart comes wicked thinking, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, thievery, false testimonies, and blasphemy. 20These are the things that pollute a man! But eating with unwashed hands doesn’t make him dirty.’  
  
21Well, after he left that place, Jesus traveled up into areas of Tyre and Sidon. 22And there {Look!} a Phoenician woman who lived nearby came to him and started shouting:  
  
 ‘Have mercy on me O Lord, son of David; for my daughter is badly demon possessed!’  
  
23Now, [Jesus] didn’t pay any attention to her. But his disciples begged him to [do something], because she kept following them and shouting at them.  
24So he said to them:  
  
 ‘I wasn’t sent here to [help] anyone other than just the lost sheep of the house of IsraEl.’  
  
25But then, the woman came up to [Jesus]. She bowed low and said:  
  
 ‘Lord, please help me!’  
  
26And he said to her:  
  
 ‘It isn’t right to take bread from the children and throw it to the puppies.’  
  
27But she replied:  
  
 ‘Yes Lord; but aren’t puppies allowed to eat the crumbs that fall from the tables of their masters?’  
  
28Well at that, Jesus said to her:  
  
 ‘O woman; you have a lot of faith… May it be as you wish.’  
  
And her daughter was healed from that moment on.  
  
29Then, going cross-country from that place, Jesus traveled along the Sea of Galilee. And finally, he climbed a mountain and sat down… 30And large crowds started coming to him, bringing people who were lame, injured, blind, and those who were unable to speak (along with many others).  
  
They almost threw them at his feet, and he cured them all.  
  
31So the crowds were amazed when they saw the speechless talking, the lame walking, and the blind seeing… And they praised the God of IsraEl.  
  
32Well later, Jesus called his disciples to him and said:  
  
 ‘I’m concerned for the crowds, because they’ve stayed with me for three days and they don’t have anything to eat. I certainly don’t want to send them away hungry, because they might give out on the road!’  
  
33However, the disciples asked:  
  
 ‘Where could we get enough bread to satisfy this large a crowd in such a remote location?’  
  
34So Jesus asked them:  
  
 ‘How many loaves do you have?’  
  
And they replied:  
  
 ‘Seven, plus a few little fish.’  
  
35So he told the crowd to recline on the ground. 36Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and after offering thanks, he broke them up and gave them to the disciples, who [distributed them] among the crowd… 37And everyone ate until they were satisfied.  
  
And after they picked up the scraps, they found that they had seven provision baskets full, 38even though there were some 4,000 men, plus women and children, who ate!  
  
39Well, finally, after dismissing the crowd, he got into the boat and they traveled to the area of MagaDan.