

Together with Jesus

Week Seven – Matthew 15 and 16
Shifting to the Gentiles and the Cross



Warm Up

What was a period of time that changed your life? (e.g. a job, living in a certain city, etc)



Matthew 15:1-20

Truly Unclean

The Pharisees and scribes seek Jesus out, even in the Gentile land. Clearly a fact finding delegation, they ask Jesus about the “tradition of the elders” and how Jesus is training His disciples. After rebuffing them, Jesus uses this as an opportunity to teach about what defiles a person.



Question: What is Jesus calling into question here?



Question: What do you think Jesus was doing in ignoring/denying the woman?

Matthew 15:21-28

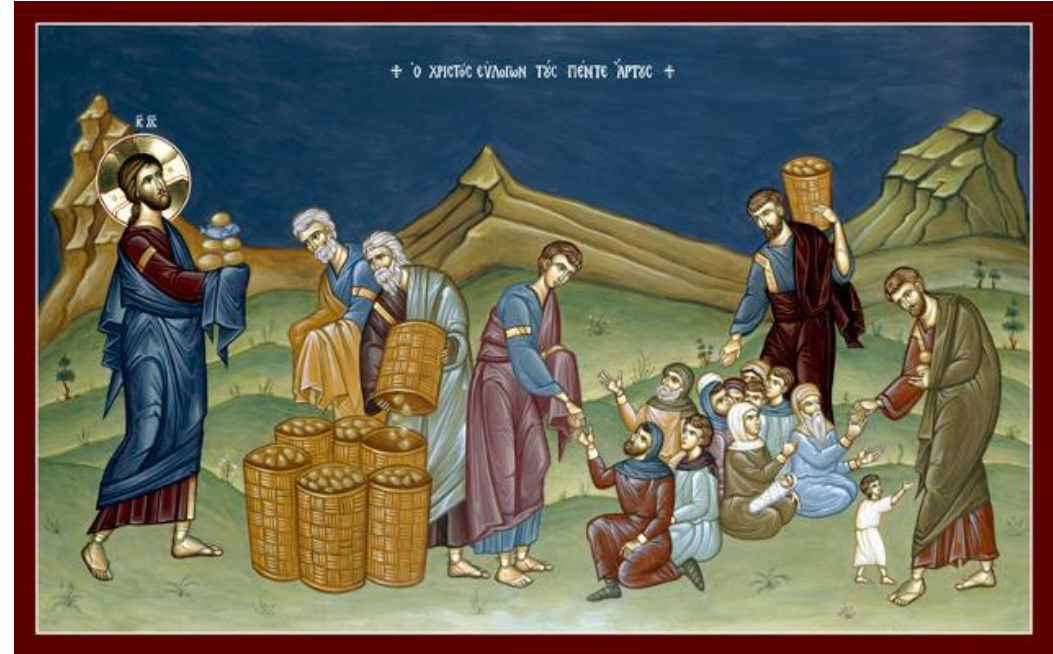
The Syro-Phoenician Woman

Jesus goes even deeper into Gentile territory, entering even the hostile cities of Tyre and Sidon. Even there someone is seeking Him out so that He might heal her. What follows is a famous exchange between Him and the woman.

Matthew 15:29-39

Jesus Heals and Feeds Gentiles

From Tyre and Sidon, Jesus heals many Gentiles and then engages in a copy-cat miracle. Matthew captures the feeding of the 4,000 showing that it is meant to mimic the feeding of the 5,000 but with a Gentile focus.



Question: What do you suppose the disciples are thinking in this seeming second act of a miracle?



Question: What do you imagine the disciples are thinking about in the boat? How do they get Jesus wrong?

Matthew 16:1-12

The Pharisees and their Leaven

The Pharisees approach Jesus again, this time with their rivals the Sadducees. After a short interaction, Jesus returns to His home base in Capernaum. On the way He has a frustrating conversation with His disciples who seem to get Jesus wrong.

Matthew 16:13-20

Peter Confesses the Christ

Matthew records an important event in the life of the disciples as Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ). Jesus then promises to build a new kind of community (church) on this confession.



Question: Who do people think Jesus is? (both then and today)

Matthew 16:21-23

First Passion Prediction

After Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ, Jesus gives the disciples the first clear prediction that He is going to die. Peter then tries to rebuke Jesus for this idea.



Question: Why do you think Jesus tells the disciples about His impending death at this time?

Matthew 16:24-28

Taking Up the Cross

Jesus then continues to speak to all of the disciples about what they need to be ready for as they continue to follow Him.



Question: What does “take up your cross” mean to the disciples? To us today?



Wrap Up

You're over half way through the Gospel of Matthew! Does it feel like that?

Next week – Matthew 17 and 18