

# Together with Jesus

## Week 8 - Matthew 15 and 16 - Shifting to Gentiles and the Cross

Matthew 15:1-20

### Truly Unclean

A delegation travels to the Gentile area that Jesus is in to test Him with a question about how He trains His disciples. Jesus then speaks about what makes one truly unclean.

- **What all is Jesus calling into question here?**

Matthew 15:21-28

### The Syro-Phoenician Woman

Going even further into Gentile territory, Jesus encounters a Gentile woman with a strong faith.

- **Why do you suppose Jesus ignores/denies the woman at first?**

Matthew 15:29-39

### Jesus Heals and Feeds Over 4,000 Gentiles

Jesus continues on in the Gentile lands, healing them and feeding 4,000 of them in a way reminiscent of feeding the 5,000.

- **What do you suppose the disciples are thinking during this “copy cat” miracle?**

Matthew 16:1-12

### The Leaven of the Pharisees

The Pharisees (this time along with rivals, the Sadducees) come to Jesus to test Him again. Jesus shuts them down and gets into a conversation with the disciples about them while heading back to Israel.

- **What do you imagine the disciples are thinking when they are confused about Jesus' message about leaven?**

Matthew 16:13-20

### Peter Confesses Jesus as Christ

After being asked about who people say Jesus is, Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ).

- **Who do people think Jesus is? (both then and today?)**

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**Matthew 16:21-23**

**Jesus Prophecies About His Death**

After Peter's confession, Jesus prophesies about His own death, causing Peter to speak out of turn to Jesus.

- **Why do you think Jesus has waited all this time to tell the disciples about this?**

**Matthew 16:24-28**

**“Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me”**

After revealing how He is going to die, Jesus continues to speak to the disciples about what they should expect if they are to follow Him.

- **What does “take up your cross” mean to the disciples? What does it mean to us?**

**Red Letter Challenge this week – Be Last**

This week, take Jesus' words from Mark 9:35, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all” to heart. Put someone else's needs before your own this week. Put yourself second or third instead of trying to be “number one”.