Food for the Gentiles

Matthew 15:21-39

Introduction

Matthew is the most Jewish of the gospels, yet he is also the most open to the Gentiles.

- Chapter 2 – The Gentile Magi come to worship Jesus at his birth.
- Chapter 8 – The Roman Centurion is commended for his faith.
- Chapter 15 – A Canaanite woman is commended for her great faith.
- Chapter 28 – Matthew records Jesus’ Great Commission to “go and make disciples of all nations.”

The gospel is for all nations – for all people.

I. Jesus Has Compassion for All People, Matthew 15:21-28

If there was one thing that could make you unclean it was contact with Gentiles. So Jesus takes the disciples to Tyre and Sidon. These are pagan cities with pagan temples and unclean food. A Canaanite woman came to him and cried out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me.”

Jesus at first says nothing. It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to their dogs.” “Yes Lord, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Jesus commends her faith and her daughter is healed.
What made her faith great?
• Her understanding of Jesus.
• Her humility.
• Her persistence.

Faith is found in unlikely places.

“I’ve never despaired that God could save any man, since God saved me.” John Newton
Don’t let the privileges you have been given harden your heart to the gospel.
Guard your heart and hold on to Jesus.

II. JESUS HAS POWER TO DO GREAT THINGS WITH OUR MEAGER RESOURCES.
MATTHEW 15:29-39

Jesus went from Tyre and Sidon to the east side of the Sea of Galilee – to the area known as the Decapolis.
Another miraculous feeding takes place, but this time the crowd is largely Gentile.
• They came bringing their lame, the blind, the mute and many others and Jesus healed them.
• The people were amazed and praised “the God of Israel”.
• Jesus had compassion on them.

For a second time, Jesus takes their meager resources and uses them to feed the multitude.
Seven baskets were left over.
Isn’t it great to know that Jesus can take our limited resources and use them to do great things?
• Child sponsorship
• Missionary support
• Giving to the church

III. JESUS IS PLANNING A FUTURE WEDDING FEAST THAT WILL BE OUT OF THIS WORLD.
Both of these miraculous feedings have Messianic significance. They look forward to the day when we will eat with Jesus in his kingdom.

“I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Matthew 8:11-12

There will be people at this wedding banquet from “every nation, tribe, people and language”. Revelation 7:9

They will shout,

“What a joy! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.” Revelation 19:6-7

“Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” Revelation 19:9

Do you have your invitation?

Conclusion

Jesus has compassion for all people.

Jesus has power to take our limited resources and use them to do great things.

Jesus is planning a great future celebration that will last for all of eternity.