

Matthew 15:29-16:28 The Compassionate King

If I were to give a theme to this section of the book of Matthew – it would be the Compassionate King.

A) We see the compassion of Jesus on display – and what makes this even more interesting – he has traveled into largely Gentile territory.

B) Briefly pick up in the passage that Aaron covered two weeks ago for context – 4 scenes – locations

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. So he goes into the region of Phoenicia – Tyre 35 miles and Sidon 60 miles from Galilee

C) Mark's gospel tells us he is in a house – seeking some reprieve but this woman finds him

1) He is desperate

22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

23 But He answered her not a word.

And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

26 But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

27 And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

This is an interesting story because this woman, a Canaanite woman, one of the condemned races from the Old Testament.

A) She's a survivor, a hanger-on, she's living in that area.

B) But she as a Gentile, as a non-Jew – She addresses Jesus with a messianic Jewish title, "Son of David".

1) **Heard and Believed**

C) Love the Disciples: the disciples came and urged him saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

1) You wouldn't want these guys counseling anyone in church would you?

D) I think what they're saying is like, "Help this lady, so we can get rid of her."

1) She is bugging us

Now let me give you two things to help you understand what was just going on.

A) Number one, context. Number two, language.

B) Context, the setting as a dinner table in a home where you have a pet at home, a doggy looking for crumbs.

1) Do you have a dog at home that does that?

C) We do not let our dog eat from the table: -

1) One recent family gathering – tell everyone – don't feed the dog from the table: Don't want him begging

Someone is feeding the dog

A) Find out who is feeding the dog – Is it my teenage niece Ally? – nephew Anthony? –

B) No it is my rebellious mom and dad –

1) Excuse: Hey we are grandma and grandpa – we are allowed to spoil the kids

C) So that is the Context – Dog at the dinner table

Number two is language. The word that Jesus uses for dog is aptly translated "little dog".

A) In the Greek language they had a word for dog – bigger – scavenger dog – opposite of a pet –

B) They would use that word in a derogatory way in talking about the gentiles -

1) someone you didn't like – Not YO DOG – but YOU DOG!!!!

C) But the word Jesus uses the word that means and can only mean a pet, a little puppy, Fido.

D) So Jesus uses the term, "Little dog", speaking to this lady and here's why

1) He does that to draw out her faith! AND it works,

E)NOTE her response: "Yes Lord." Even the little dogs eat crumbs which fall from the masters table.

She's saying, "You know what? I know my place,

A)I'm not under the covenant that the Jewish people are under,

B)I don't have the right to ask for the choice morsels, like the covenant people of the Jews,

1)I just want the leftovers. Just throw me the scraps."

"Could you just give me the left over mercy?

C)I CAN take the scraps and I know that will be enough to heal my daughter.

D)The statement is not meant to highlight what she thinks she deserves –

1)but rather to highlight what she believes Jesus CAN DO!!!

E)That is always the right way to approach the Lord – I don't deserve anything –

1)but I believe you can do anything – I am asking for Mercy.

F)And that's why Jesus said, "Oh woman, great is your faith, let it be to you as you desire".

Lesson: Jesus always responds to the right kind of faith – Right view of Him – and of ourselves

Scene 2: 29 Jesus departed from there, skirted the Sea of Galilee, and went up on the mountain and sat down there.

From there Jesus departed from the borders of Tyre and Sidon and went to the region of the Decapolis.

A)The Decapolis included ten cities that were in a league and were authorized by the Romans

B)Decapolis was financially prosperous and very worldly.

1)Huge monuments to Zeus/ Aphrodite dotted the landscape,

2)and coliseums provided Roman-style entertainment.

C)These cities were organized to mint their own coins, run their own courts,

1)and have their own armies.

D)So This was predominantly Gentile territory

30 Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them. 31 So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.

This is really the point of letting your light so shine before men – They glorified God....!

A)We cannot help but marvel at the contrast between these Gentiles and the Jewish leaders who knew the Old Testament Scriptures.

B)The Gentiles glorified Israel's God, but the Jewish leaders said that Jesus was in league with Satan (Matt. 12:22–24).

C)Our Lord's miracles did not cause the Jewish cities to repent (Matt. 11:20ff),

1)yet the Gentiles believed in Him.

D)Jesus marveled at the faith of a Gentile soldier and a Gentile mother.

1)Yet He was amazed at the unbelief of His own people (Mark 6:6).

Compassion toward the Hungry

32 Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way."

33 Then His disciples said to Him, "Where could we get enough bread in the wilderness to fill such a great multitude?"

34 Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?"

And they said, "Seven, and a few little fish."

35 So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. 36 And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude.

37 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets full of the fragments that were left. 38 Now those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.

Critics have accused the Gospel writers of deliberately falsifying the records in order to prove that Jesus performed more miracles.

A) They claim that the feeding of the 4,000 was merely an adaptation of the previous miracle of feeding 5,000.

B) A careful examination of the records shows that this accusation is false and that the critics are wrong.

C) This chart shows the differences between the two events.

Feeding 5,000

Feeding 4,000

Primarily Jews

Primarily Gentiles

Galilee, near Bethsaida

The Decapolis

5 loaves, 2 fish

7 loaves, "a few fish"

Crowd with Him 1 day

Crowd with Him 3 days

Spring of year (green grass)

Summer season

Tried to make Him King

No popular response

12 baskets left over

7 baskets left over

The word translated baskets in Matthew 15:37 means "a large hamper."

A) It is the same kind of basket that was used to lower Paul over the Damascus wall (Acts 9:25).

B) The word for basket in Matthew 14:20 means "a wicker basket," the kind a person carried with food or other goods in it.

C) How are we going to do this? How are we going to feed this big multitude?"

D) Now you would think, one of them go "Oh, wait.

1) I remember, something really cool happened recently.

E) You fed five thousand men plus women and children."

But how quickly we forget?

A) The right answer would be "Well, I don't know how you are going to do this....."

B) But You've done it before and you're going to do it again.

1) I don't know how you're going to do it but you'll figure something out.

C) And it's just going to be fun to watch so go for it, do something cool.

One of our problems is if we can't figure it out, we think it's not going to be done. It cannot be done.

A) Our problem is we know too much, - "I don't know I can figure it out.

B) Sometimes things just have to make sense to us

1) That was Sarah's problem. When the Lord said

"Abraham, I'm coming back within the year and Sarah, your wife is going to have a son."

C) And she's behind the curtain and she goes --.

That's the funniest thing I've heard in a long time because she's an old lady, that can't happen.

D) I'm a woman I know about these things.

1) You're a man; obviously you don't even though you're a God. So she starts laughing.

Our knowledge can get in the way of things.

A) Cruise ship carrying 5400 passengers – weighs 220,000 tons –

B) in pounds that's 440 million lbs. – how does that float ?

C) No way I am going on that – Well someone who knows about boats can explain that

D) God – I don't know how – but I know you can!!

The how is often interesting:

A) He does it - By using what was there and by using the people that were there.

B) Jesus Could have just said, "Watch this."

And all of a sudden manna would fall from heaven, that could be possible, or –

C) OR an In-N-Out burger in everybody's lap.

But he uses people to do his work.

A) He does the miracle but he uses the people to perform the miracle.

B) Now that is exactly how evangelism takes place.

1) God has the message that is a life-changing message but he entrusts you with it.

C) He says "Pass the bread out, pass the fish out.

Get it done, I'll give you what you need,

1) I'll supply it but you go pass it out".

D) He could – use a heavenly megaphone –

1 Angel – but he doesn't – he uses people

E) We get to share in the blessing

F) Most Christians never share their faith – really sad – because it is really fun

1) Better than fishing for fish –

How many you like to fish?

A) How many ever gone fishing and didn't catch any fish? Happen more than once?

B) Did you quit fishing ?

C) When you fish – have to wait? Does it take patience?

1) Is it exciting when you catch one?

Fishing for men is the same:

A) Some days – don't catch anything

B) Sometimes it takes a while – little bites of interest

C) But when you catch a live one – AMAZING

1) HEART is beating in your CHEST !!!!!!!

39 And He sent away the multitude, got into the boat, and came to the region of Magdala.

A) SO this is just a couple of miles north of Tiberius.

B) It's on the western shore of Galilee.

1) Remind me if you're going to Israel Fall 2018, when we take the boat ride from Tiberius and we go over toward the museum,

C) I'll point out Magdala on the left hand side of the boat, you'll see it.

1) That's where they went, that little port back then
Ch.16 V.1 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven.

A) Note this – It says the Pharisees and Sadducees. Now why should that be an odd phrase?

B) Because these two groups which are now together are almost never together, they're almost always opposed to each other.

1) They are like diabolical enemies. They don't agree on anything.

C) You never see Pharisees and Sadducees get together on anything except one thing,

1) They joined forces against Jesus

The Pharisees were the conservatives.

A) They believed in not only the law, the written law, what Moses wrote and the prophets but also the minutia of the Oral Law.

B) Obsessed with laws – legalist

1) Avoided contact with Gentiles – unclean

C) The Pharisees also believed in angels, demons, the spiritual world, resurrection.

The Sadducees were on the other extreme.

A) They were the liberals in their theology.

B) Interpreted scripture – liberal stance –

C) Lots of room for interpretation

D) They didn't believe much in the spiritual realm – focused on the material

1) They didn't believe in the existence of angels, or demons, or spirits.

E) They did not believe in a bodily resurrection.

1) That's why they were Sad U – SEE ☺

The Sadducees were more politically inclined and political activists,

A) They mingled with Gentiles and sought to use the politicians to their advantage.

B) So they hated each other. They never got along with each other.

1) You never see them together.

C) Accept in their hatred of Jesus

1) So they come asking for a sign

2 He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red';

3 and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. 4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." And He left them and departed.

But Jesus says, "You know, you guys are great weathermen, you're just really bad Bible men."

A) You're great at looking at the natural; you're really lousy at discerning the supernatural.

B) You've missed the main sign which is me.

1) And so, of course you missed all the lesser signs that I've already done like:

- Lame walk / Blind see / deaf hear/ dead raised

C) All those were signs but I am the sign.

1) So he calls them hypocrites.

Another interesting thing here is this:

A) The word Jesus uses for time – typical word was Chrono's – Chronology – a sequence of time

B) What time is it? – Look at your watch – 4pm

C) Jesus uses the word **Kairos** = epoch or eras or seasons –

1) You should be able to discern the season – we are in

D) The season for the Messiah to show up!

They were guilty of not knowing the season of his first coming –

A) We need to be careful to not be ignorant of the season of his 2nd coming!

B) Jesus says no man knows the day or the hour but we should be aware of the times and the seasons

C) Rebirth of the nation of Israel

1) Upheaval in the middle east -/ technology etc

D) Jesus repeats to this group what he said earlier to another group –

4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah

Sign of Resurrection!!! Matthew 12:38-45

5 Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. 6 Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."

7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have taken no bread."

This is kind of funny – He is bummed at us – we didn't bring any bread:

A) There is no fast food restaurant to run to.

8 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread? 9 Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? 10 Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up? 11 How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? Really? Are you serious?"

I wonder if he feels that way about us – when we doubt him sometimes.

Not talking about bread – talking about something else

—but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." 12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Leaven is the yeast in the dough that causes it to rise

A) A little bit of leaven leavens the whole batch.

B) Leaven likened to sin – little bit – permeates – it affects

C) Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

D) The leaven of the Pharisees is legalism.

1) Beware of becoming overly legalistic – performance based religion – acceptance

E) Legalistic in our relationships

1) No love – no grace – all law – hammer people

Also Beware of the leaven of the Sadducees – which is Liberalism

A) Truth doesn't matter – just love

B) We interpret the Bible loosely!

C) Balance: Speak the truth in love!!!

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Center of pagan culture – Huge revelation

17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Jesus is building His Church – HIS CHURCH

20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

**MOVES from His person to HIS WORK!
His person and His work go hand in hand.**

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

NO SALVATION WITHOUT A CROSS

22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

SATAN WAS ALWAYS TRYING TO GET JESUS TO TAKE THE WORLD W/OUT THE CROSS

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Today the cross is an accepted symbol of love and sacrifice.

A) But in that day the cross was a horrible means of capital punishment.

B) The Romans would not mention the cross in polite society.

In fact, no Roman citizen could be crucified; this terrible death was reserved for their enemies.

C) Jesus had not yet specifically stated that He would be crucified (He did this in Matt. 20:17-19).

1) But His words that follow emphasize the cross.

He presented to the disciples two approaches to life:

deny yourself	live for yourself
take up your cross	ignore the cross
follow Christ	follow the world
lose your life for His sake	save your life for your own sake
forsake the world	gain the world
keep your soul	lose your soul
share His reward and glory	lose His reward and glory

To deny self does not mean to deny things.

A) It means to give yourself wholly to Christ and share in His shame and death.

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me- Galatians 2:20

Cross is not some burden like: Asthma – my Husband

A)The Cross is a choice

B)Die to self – so that someone else can live – someone else can be blessed!

C)But suffering always leads to glory. This is why Jesus ended this short sermon with a reference to His glorious kingdom (Matt. 16:28).

²⁷ For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. ²⁸ Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

“Wait,” you say, “the disciples are all dead and Jesus’ kingdom hasn’t come yet.

Did Jesus make a mistake?”

You have to come Sunday – We will answer that question –

The answer lies in chapter 17.