



## Matthew

### Lesson 15

*The disciples have returned from what had to be one of the most impactful events of their lives. The power to do the miraculous things that had marveled not just the people but the disciples themselves, had now been given to them. It is one thing to watch and be in awe of the astonishing acts of Jesus, it is quite another to have the power and charge to do them themselves. The baton of authority had been handed to them, and now they had experienced the immense responsibility that came with that. Whether it be crowds of people demanding their help or authorities threatening their lives, the experience of taking on the message and power of Jesus and spreading it to the people had to be dramatically lifechanging. When they return to report their amazing experiences to Jesus, they find that things at home are just as tense as when they left. The people are still thronging to Jesus for help, the authorities continue to*

*question and threaten, and the demands of the ministry are still overwhelming and exhausting. Added to this tension is the news that John the Baptist, whom many of them had originally been devoted followers of, had been beheaded by Herod Antipas. Although the experiences they had on the road exhilarated them, they were tired, hungry, sad, and wanting to escape and debrief with their Master without the demands of the work. As they attempt to retire to a quiet place together, the crowds once again meet them. Jesus also is weary and needs to rest and regroup, but the needs of the people always override His own needs. “When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.”*  
Matthew 14:14

Read Chapter 15 (See also Mark 7:1-23)

1. *If Jesus is in Capernaum at this time, using your map, how far did these Pharisees travel to question Him? Vs. 1. Why do you think they made this long trip to see Him?*



*The phrase “traditions of the Elders” would have been a reference to the oral laws passed down from the time of Moses. Those oral laws were eventually (AD 200) written in a document called the Mishnah which is a compilation of oral traditions giving further instruction on how to live out the Law or Torah. It was divided into six sections: Seeds, laws concerning cultivation and the soil; Festivals, concerning regulations of the Sabbath and holy days; Women, addressing marriage, divorce and other family issues; Damages, mainly regarding compensation on damages; Holy things, rules regarding sacrifices and Temple worship; Purification, rituals regarding the subject of cleanness and purity.  
(From Chapter 12 Note - Difference Between.net and Archeological Study Bible)*

2. *What “transgression” did the Pharisees accuse Jesus’ disciples of committing? Since the Law of Moses only required this of the priests, what section of the Mishnah would these added oral laws been recorded in? See above note.*
  
3. *In response, what “transgression” did Jesus question the Pharisees about? 15:4*

*In Mark 7:11, Jesus uses the word “corban” to describe the Pharisees’ justification of their sin. If something was declared “corban” it was dedicated to the Temple even though it stayed in the possession of the owner. If a possession was “corban,” it was considered something they did not have to use as an asset to use in the support of their parents*

4. *According to Matthew 15:5-6 and Mark 7:9, what did Jesus say was their mistake?*
  
5. *How did this fulfill prophecy? 15:7-9*
  
6. *In what ways do we make this same mistake?*
  
7. *What does Jesus say to help them understand His breaking of the tradition? 15:10-11*

8. *How did the Pharisees respond to this encounter with Jesus, and why do you think the disciples might be concerned about it? Vs.12*
9. *In your own words, give Jesus' explanation of the parable. Vs. 17-20.*
10. *What Gentile areas does Jesus withdraw to after this encounter? Find them on your map. What miracle does He perform there, and what is so significant about it? 15:21-28*



*When Jesus leaves this area, He goes back to the area close to the Sea of Galilee. He stops at the city of Magadan (Matt.15:39) or Dalmanutha (Luke 8:10). It is believed that this was the hometown of Mary Magdalene (literally Mary of Magdala or Magadan)*

11. *In Galilee Jesus performs a similar miracle to that in Matthew 14:13-21. Compare the two miracles and detail some of their similarities and differences.*

**Similarities**

**Differences**

***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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