

Adult Sunday School

April 4, 2021

Matthew 15:10-28

Outline

- The Identity of the Messiah Revealed (13:54-16:20)
 - Teacher of the Word of God and compassionate healer (15:1-39)

Matthew 15:10-20

Theme- *False teachers-the heart, the source of sin*

Scope and Purpose

There are two striking sayings of Jesus in this passage. One is related to false doctrine and the other the human heart. Both merit close attention.

Prominent Points

1. False Doctrine- it is our duty to oppose it, its final destruction is sure, and its teachers ought to be forsaken. Matthew 15:13-*He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up."*
 - a. The disciples were astonished at Jesus' words about the Pharisees.
 - b. This plant must be rooted up, rejected, the teachings are unscriptural.
 - c. All false doctrine will be overthrown and put to shame. Nothing shall stand but that which is built upon the Word of God.
2. Applications- It was practical obedience to this saying which produced the Protestant Reformation.
 - a. We must be bold to resist false teaching. We need to be outspoken and unflinching witnesses against error.
 - b. We need to forsake false teachers if they will not give up their delusions. It is at our peril if we submit to unscriptural teaching; our blood will be on our own heads. Don't follow the blind into a hole. It may bring eternal punishment.
 - c. We need to be patient even as we witness false teaching. It will not stand for long, God will defend the cause of his own truth, and every heresy will be rooted up. Do not fight with carnal weapons. Preach, protest, and pray, the truth shall prevail.
3. The heart is the true source of all sin and defilement.
 - a. Jeremiah 17:9 - *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?*
 - b. The Pharisees emphasized the outward means and their traditions as true piety.
 - c. Jesus taught that what defiles comes from the heart. Matthew 15:19 - *For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander*
 - d. What a fearful catalogue of the heart described by our Lord. We must ponder and learn wisdom.
 - e. Application

- i. Let us not content ourselves with just the form or religion. We need a right heart with God. Acts 8:21- *You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.*
- ii. The right heart is sprinkled with the blood of Christ, renewed by the Holy Spirit, and purified by faith.
 1. Psalm 51:10 - *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*
 2. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come*
- iii. Proverbs 4:23 - *Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*¹
 1. Even after we are regenerated we still have the sinful nature at war within us. This it is our duty to do heart-work all of our earthly life.
 2. Proverbs 28:26- *Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.*

Matthew 15:21-28

Theme- *The Canaanite mother*

Note- Jesus withdrew to Tyre and Sidon which outside the confines of Judea and is present day Lebanon.

Scope and Purpose

- We note here that true faith can be found where it is not expected.
- We also see that affliction is a blessing to a person's soul.
- Christ's people are less gracious than Christ himself.
- We are to persevere in prayer for ourselves and others.

Prominent Points

1. Faith found in a Canaanite woman, something unexpected. Think also of the servant of Naaman living in the midst of superstition and dark idolatry. On the other hand think of Elisha's servant Gehazi, who had all the advantages of religion. People in God's kingdom are everywhere.
2. Affliction proves a blessing to our soul
 - a. Her child's malady brought her to Christ and taught her to pray. Psalm 119:71 - *It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.*
 - b. Patience under trouble is crucial. Every cross is intended to do us good, to wean us from the world and to the Bible, to drive us to our knees.
 - c. Anything is better than living in carelessness and dying in sin.
 - d. Luke 12:20 - *But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'*
3. Christ's people are less gracious than Christ himself.
 - a. Christ's disciples wanted to send the woman away.

¹ See notes from La Belle PM Studies on Keeping the Heart, based on Richard Alleine

- b. We discourage inquirers of Christ, we doubt the beginners of grace, we treat people like Saul (Paul) - Acts 9:26- *And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple.*
- c. Let us be gentle and kind and encouraging.
- d. There is far more in our gracious Master than there is in the best of his servants.
- e. Christ may keep us waiting but he will never send us away empty.
- 4. There is encouragement to persevere in prayer, both for ourselves and others.
 - a. The Lord seemed to be discouraging the woman, he came for the Jews. She prayed on. Then the Lord said that his bread is not for the dogs. She then persists in her plea for the crumbs. Jesus commends her great faith.
 - b. Application
 - i. Let us remember this in our prayers for ourselves. We want to give up. This is a temptation from the devil.
 1. Let us pray against - besetting sins, against the spirit of the world, the wiles of Satan, pray on and on, do not faint!
 2. Pray for strength to do our duty, grace to bear our trials, comfort in every trouble.
 3. Let us be sure that no time is so well spent as that which we spend on our knees. Jesus hears us and answers us.
 - ii. Let us remember to intercede for others.
 1. Do you pray for conversion of your children, relations/friends? Follow this woman and lay the state of their souls before Christ. Let us name their names night and day and never rest.
 2. Let us believe that Jesus is not changed, and that he who heard this woman, and granted her request, will also hear us, and one day give us an answer of peace.

