

**SCRIPTURE**  
**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW**

**CHAPTER 15**

**(Scribes and Pharisees question Jesus)**

**Mt 15:1.** Then came to Jesus (some) scribes (or teachers of the law) and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying (or asking),

**Mt 15:2.** Why do thy (or your) disciples

**COMMENTARY**

**CHAPTER 15**

The ministry of Jesus began when He was about 30 years of age. It lasted approximately 3 years. Matthew 15:1-20 takes place approximately 31 months after He began His ministry.

**(Scribes and Pharisees question Jesus)**

**Mt 15:1.** Most of the religious establishment in the days of Jesus had no interest in what Jesus taught. He brought forth teachings that were contrary to theirs. Jesus called them hypocrites in verse 7. The religious leaders of that time taught doctrines, traditions of the elders, and ceremonies that were not of God. They loved the praise of men. They loved being greeted as if they were someone important.

Jesus often backed up His teachings with miracles that could not be denied. Instead of praising God for the miracles, the scribes and Pharisees were very angry, as the people were turning away from their teachings and were turning to the teachings of Jesus.

Finally, some scribes (which were those that made copies of the law), and Pharisees or teachers from Jerusalem came to question Jesus. They had evil thoughts from their father, the devil. As time would pass, their opposition would increase. Jesus did not go to Jerusalem till the end was at hand.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:1**, Then came to Jesus (some) scribes (or teachers of the law) and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying (or asking),

**Mt 15:2.** Verse two starts off with a question,

transgress (or break) the tradition of the elders? for they wash not (or do not wash) their hands when (or before) they eat bread.

and then a reason for that question. They tested Jesus. The unsaved, self-centered, self-righteous leaders in the time of Jesus **did not understand** that many of the ceremonial things they did, and many traditions they had brought forth over many years were not of God.

Some of these traditions may have dated back to the Babylonian captivity. The law that God gave Moses contained no such traditions as the elders maintained. They were of men; yet, they considered themselves to be representatives of God, but, in reality, they were the blind leaders of the blind. The teachings of Jesus and the miracles He did were exposing their evil and false deeds. They were angry. At this time, they did not know or understand much of the teaching of Jesus.

This verse reveals to some degree just how deep that darkness in them was.

They asked Jesus why His disciples did not keep the tradition that the elders (that is, the religious community, the priests, the elders, and the scribes). Then they got specific when they mentioned the washing of their hands when they ate. This was a ceremonial washing of the hands before eating. This was a ritual that consisted of pouring a small amount of cold water over hands that were stretched out or dipping their hands in water. Their false religious beliefs dictated that an evil spirit sitting on a person's hands would be removed.

This ritualistic washing also included various utensils like cups, pitchers, and kettles-ref Mk 7:4.

It was not as we think of washing today, that is, to get the dirt off.

One can see that **when a person leaves the**

**Mt 15:3.** But he (Jesus) answered (or replied) and said unto them, Why do ye (or you) (yourselves) also transgress (or break) the commandment of God by (or for the sake of) your tradition?

**pure Word of God**, that all sorts of absurd practices and traditions can enter in, and those with little or no biblical foundation can be easily led astray. This can be seen clearly by multitudes of cults and the totally, unbiblical Catholic tradition of purgatory that the church devised, which has increased its revenue.

In the days of Jesus, these false religious leaders were putting their traditions on an equal standing with God's Word. Even today, in many churches, some of their traditions are taught as if it was God's Word. God forbid.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:2**, Why do thy (or your) disciples transgress (or break) the tradition of the elders? for they wash not (or do not wash) their hands when (or before) they eat bread.

**Mt 15:3.** In verse 3, Jesus answers the question of the religious leaders with a question. The end result is that Jesus silences them.

Jesus asked them, why did they break God's commandment, so that they can keep their own tradition? Jesus was placing God's Word as the ultimate authority. Their very tradition was sin. Take note, that many things each of us speak may be sin. Take note, if you say you will do something, but then do it not. You lied.

Note the following: Jesus told the Pharisees that they broke the commandment of God for the sake of their tradition. As a result, verse 12 tells us, the Pharisees were offended after they heard this saying, which was from the previous verses.

There were many (of what we call unbiblical) commands that the religious leaders had established over many decades of time. As time progressed from the days of Moses and

the prophets, it got worse and worse. Finally, it had reached a state that the biblical teachings of Moses and the prophets had regressed into the religion of the the elders, or we may say, of the scribes and Pharisees.

Where do false religious teachings come from? Are they from God? No. From man? Yes, but where does man get them from? It is from the wrong thoughts that people have, which are from the devil.

But how can man understand this when they do not believe there is a devil putting false teaching into their minds?

There is only one Bible. How then can there be so many wrong understandings? Mankind is good at twisting God's Word and justifying it to make it fit what he wants to believe.

Even today, if all people would repent and read and understand and adhere to God's Word, many churches would cease to exist, including the Roman and Greek Catholic Churches, and many others also.

As Billy Graham reportedly said—He believed there were about 25,000 people worldwide that claimed they were the Christ—then he jokingly replied, he thought he had met nearly all of them.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:3**, Why do thy (or your) disciples transgress (or break) the tradition of the elders? for they wash not (or do not wash) their hands when (or before) they eat bread.

**Mt 15:4.** Jesus is God manifested in the flesh. He is the Word of God. The religious leaders didn't have the faintest idea who they were dealing with. Time after time, some of the greatest religious minds in the days of Jesus confronted Him. Never, no not one

**Mt 15:4.** For God commanded (or said), saying, Honour thy (or your) father and mother: and, He that curseth (or curses) (or speaks evil of) father or mother, let him die the death (or be put to death).

**Mt 15:5.** But ye (or you) say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest (or might) be profited by me;

(or anything of mine you might have been helped by, has been given to God) (or is a gift devoted to God)

**Mt 15:6.** And honour not (or he is not to honor) his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye (or you) made the commandment of God of none effect (or you have invalidated the Word of God) (or you nullify the Word of God) by your (or for the sake of your) tradition.

time, was any able to even begin to gain an upper hand in communicating or disagreeing with Jesus.

Jesus answered with God's Word. He began with "For God commanded." Jesus spoke with authority the likes of which the religious leaders had never heard. He told them God commanded to honour thy (or your) father and mother: and, He that curseth (or curses) (or speaks evil of) father or mother, let him die the death (or be put to death). This is the fifth commandment-ref Ex 20:12; Ex 21:17; Deut 5:16. Then He continues in Mt 15:5.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:4**, For God commanded (or said), saying, Honour thy (or your) father and mother: and, He that curseth (or curses) (or speaks evil of) father or mother, let him die the death (or be put to death).

**Mt 15:5, 6.** Jesus next speaks the words the so-called religious leaders said. He said, "But ye say." This reveals the religious leaders being in disagreement with God's Word.

Consider this wording for verse 5. A person refuses to give a gift to their mother or father, for they say it is a gift devoted to God.

They say giving a gift to God makes him free from his obligation to his mother and father.

In other words, a person says I have promised to give to God what I might have used to help you, my mother and father.

A Jew could give his property to the Temple. In doing so, he could avoid the necessity of supporting his parents.

Thus, he rids himself of his duty to honor his father and mother.

Jesus is still speaking to some of the scribes

and Pharisees, which had come from Jerusalem. He was angry with them. He did not take them aside to correct them, but He corrected them openly as what they had done, was done openly.

Jesus now contrasts what the misled religious leaders were saying with what God said. This is in verse 5 and continues into verse 6.

In the previous verse, Mt 15:4, the first words were, "For God commanded."

Now the first words in Mt 15:5 state, "But ye say."

This may be said to be the difference in understanding and misunderstanding.

It is the difference between what God says, and man says.

It is the difference between eternal life and eternal death.

It is the difference between light and darkness.

It is the difference between humbleness or humility and pride.

It is the difference between being teachable and not being teachable.

It is the difference between a sponge and a rock.

Perhaps the following, although not Scripture, could illustrate the blindness of the religious leaders.

There were two tea cups. One was empty. One was full. A person began filling the empty cup. It accepted the tea easily. It had been empty.

Then he began trying to fill the full tea cup. But it would not accept any more tea as it was full.

Regarding most people and so-called Christians, their tea cup is full. They are unteachable.

But the empty tea cup can receive God's Word easily with humbleness.

Regretfully, in this latter day generation, most are as a full tea cup. They are unteachable when it comes to God's Word. They either don't care, or they are full of wrong thoughts prompted by the devil.

Many people today make the commandments of God to have no validity in their life, so they can continue to sin and do their own will. They do not seek to humble themselves, repent, and submit to God's Word. Their Bibles, if they have one, may be a dust collector.

And when they go to church, usually story-telling abounds, and God's pure Word is difficult to find. And this latter day generation loves to have it this way, but then hell awaits them, and there is no chance to repent in the place called "hell."

Jesus tells the religious leaders: Thus have ye (or you) made the commandment of God of none effect (or you have invalidated the Word of God) (or you nullify the Word of God) by your (or for the sake of your) tradition. Parents are to be honored, and excuses are to be put aside.

### **CORRECTION A KEY TO SALVATION**

In many ways, the unsaved religious leaders look like the real thing. They look like they are saved.

In a careful examination of the Scriptures, the following was determined.

The following are some of the many ways the unsaved can look like they are saved:

They may profess Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

They may do many wonderful works in the name of Jesus.

They may witness in the name of Jesus.

They may prophesy in the name of Jesus.

**It can be difficult, in some cases, to tell the unsaved from the saved.**

But there is one key that can separate the two.

**This is it—THE UNSAVED THAT ARE POSITIVE THEY ARE SAVED ARE USUALLY UNCORRECTABLE WHEN GIVEN GOOD, SOUND, BIBLE TEACHING.**

**The saved are childlike, whereas make-believe Christians can often be uncorrectable and not childlike.**

**To repeat the point: The unsaved may do works that may indicate he is saved. However, the true followers of Jesus are childlike to correction, but the unsaved that believe they are saved are not childlike toward good, sound, biblical correction. Can you be easily corrected by God's Word? The few that inherit eternal life can.**

As it has been said in **Mt 15:5 and 6**, But ye (or you) say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest (or might) be profited by me; (or anything of mine you might have been helped by, has been given to God) (or is a gift devoted to God).



**Mt 15:7.** Ye (or you) hypocrites, well did Esaias (or Isaiah) prophesy of (or about) you, saying,

**Mt 15:6.** And honour not (or he is not to honor) his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have **ye** (or you) **made** the commandment of God of none effect (or you have invalidated the Word of God) (or you nullify the Word of God) by your (or for the sake of your) tradition.

In addition, one may consider the unbiblical traditions of many churches that have replaced water baptism by full immersion with sprinkling. Sprinkling baptism and infant baptism is no baptism at all. It is Satan's counterfeit. From such a church, depart without comment and without hesitation.

**Mt 15:7.** Next, He calls them hypocrites.

This can apply to a person that claims to hold to a high moral, ethical, and social standard, but it is in word only.

It can be a person that pretends to have high virtues, or moral, or religious beliefs, but it is false.

It can be a person that pretends to be something, but it is a falsehood. They pretend to be something which they are not.

It is a person that "pretends" to have certain virtues, or moral, or religious beliefs, yet they do not. It is a pretender. He may say one thing but do another.

A hypocrite is like a person that wears a mask, but people can't see it. He can be a person that tries to impress people with things that are false.

A hypocrite is a contradiction.

Many ministers, and especially priests,

appear to be holy on the outside, but on the inside they are spiritually dead.

Then Jesus got ready to quote Isaiah, stating that he had spoken about them.

Any clergy or minister that believes in sprinkling baptism, is biblically blind, very blind.

Any that does not teach that salvation must include repentance, something is wrong. Jesus said it clearly: Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish-ref Lk 13:3,5.

Many clergy, when asked what they believe, quote church or denominational doctrines. Incredibly, many often know little of the Bible, which seems unbelievable. We conducted our own survey on this subject. When many clergy were asked about their beliefs, their answers shocked us.

If the blind lead the blind, they both shall fall into the ditch. Blind clergy lead their flocks to the lake of fire, and the unsuspecting sheep follow blindly. Most people, even those that attend church, are biblically blind and uncorrectable.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:7**, Ye (or you) hypocrites, well did Esaias (or Isaiah) prophesy of (or about) you, saying,

**Mt 15:8.** Now Jesus explains why He called the scribes and Pharisees—hypocrites.

It was because they were what we call two-faced. They said one thing, but did another. A well-known saying fits these false people. They talk the talk, but don't walk the walk.

They give honor to Jesus with lip service, but not with their heart.

**Mt 15:8.** This people draweth nigh unto me (or honors me) with their mouth (or lips), and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart (or hearts) is far (away) from me (or far from me).

This is the way many so-called Christians are today. They go to church. They sing about Jesus, but when they leave their church, Jesus and their Bible is forgotten until next Sunday.

The author did an experiment. He went to a Bible-teaching and believing church. After the service, he observed the people as they were leaving. Was Jesus and God's Word on their lips or the things of this world?

It was the things of this world. Not one person, no, not one of many, had Jesus in their conversation.

The scribes were teachers of the law. The Pharisees were a part of a Jewish sect that flourished during the first century BC, until Israel's destruction in 70 AD.

They strictly observed religious ceremonies, various practices, oral laws, traditions, and a belief in the afterlife and the coming of the Messiah.

As has been said, Many people worship Jesus today, but their heart is far from Him.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:8**, This people draweth nigh unto me (or honors me) with their mouth (or lips), and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart (or hearts) is far (away) from me (or far from me).

**Mt 15:9.** But in vain they do worship me, teaching for (or as) doctrines the commandments (or precepts) (or rules) of men.

**Mt 15:9.** Jesus, Who will judge all, states clearly that these religious leaders, the scribes and Pharisees, did in deed worship Him. But their worship was worthless. It meant nothing,

These religious leaders taught things that were of men. They taught doctrines, and commandments, and precepts, and rules that were not of God. They were conceived of men. With the destruction of Israel in 70 AD, they ceased. However, since then many more

false teachers have arisen, which again, teach doctrines of men or misuse God's Word, or totally ignore God's Word and tell stories and more stories; and the people love to have it so.

And the religious, but biblically ignorant support them with so much money that some of these blind (so-called) Bible teachers are very rich.

How few clergy in this latter day generation right now teach much of God's Word? It is rare. At best, some may open a Bible, read a couple verses, and then close their Bible. Then they talk for about 30 minutes using little Scripture. Most congregations know **far more** about the preacher's family and what they did last week, than they do about Jesus and God's Word.

Some use nothing more than philosophy. They don't use God's Word at all, yet they draw **tens of thousands of people**.

People in these last days flock to some that are expert storytellers, but the Word of God is rarely on their lips. They support some of these that shun God's Word with huge amounts of finances. However when the Judgment comes, they may find eternal damnation awaits them, not eternal life.

Catholicism and some Protestant churches teach a salvation of various forms of works, even though it is contrary to Eph 2:8-10.

Meanwhile, a true, Bible-teaching minister may be down the street with only a handful of people and barely enough to support his family. However, it is **THIS** one that is approved by God, and not the other. It is those few people that may be approved of God and hear the words, "Well done good and

faithful servant," and not the other.

How many ministers teach as Jesus did in these latter days? Almost none.

The Bible teaches clearly that the number of people that will inherit eternal life is very small. While the number that perish is very large.

It is written: (paraphrased) 2 Tim 4:3,4-For the time will come when people will **not endure** or put up with **sound doctrine**, but they shall gather to themselves teachers that will say the things that their ears desire to hear. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables (or storytelling) (or endless babblings).

The people of this generation are so totally ignorant of their true spiritual condition and are so unaware of what the Bible teaches that they can be taught most anything, and they may believe it. There is much preaching on the television, on the internet, on the radio, and in the churches, but nearly all is a far, far cry from what Jesus and the apostles taught. Some of the best comedians and storytellers may not be in Hollywood. They may be in the pulpits, God forbid! For it is written, THE THOUGHT OF FOOLISHNESS IS SIN-Pv 24:9.

Does even one person, anywhere believe they will perish for eternity? Probably not. For if they did, they should seek to repent.

The people today are as the brethren of the rich man that is in hell. Even if a person rose from the dead to tell them to repent or they will perish, they still will not be persuaded-ref Lk 16:31.

Of this current generation, the number that will be raptured may be so few, that when it occurs, it may not be even be noticed that it happened.

Nearly every person has little or no interest in spending time at home reading God's Word. Jesus is "the Word." Most do not want to spend time in God's Word. There are just too many other things they choose to do that keeps them occupied.

Many spend lots of time on their handheld devices talking or texting. Some even do it while they are driving.

Many people watch lots of **television**.

Some glue their ears to their **radio**.

Many women enjoy their **soap operas**.

Some spend hours and hours **playing games**.

Others spend lots of time **texting** to others.

But **how many** spend lots of time either reading or listening to God's Word?

When the Rapture or "caught up" comes in the near future, there will be so few taken, that one wonders if it will even be recognized.

The proof of what is in a person's heart is what comes out of a person's mouth. Childlikeness toward correction from God's Word is a rare thing in these latter days.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:9**, But in vain they do worship me, teaching for (or as) doctrines the commandments (or precepts) (or rules) of men.

### **(What defiles a man)**

**Mt 15:10.** And (after) he called the multitude (or crowd) (to Him), and (He) said unto them, Hear, (or listen) and understand:

### **(What defiles a man)**

**Mt 15:10.** After Jesus had finished addressing the scribes and Pharisees, ref Mt 15:1, He called the crowd of people to Him and told them to both listen and understand.

A person's understanding is determined by different things. First, Jesus must open a person's heart to understand. If this does not

happen, that person will remain biblically blind and will die in their sins. These shall suffer eternal torment in the lake of fire.

If a person commits the unforgivable sin, their understanding will be forever darkness. That is blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. These shall suffer eternal torment in the lake of fire.

People that continually take the Lord's name in vain are expressing hatred toward the very One that created them and loves them. God's Word reveals that except they repent, they will be in the lake of fire forever and ever.

With Jesus calling the multitude to Him and telling them to understand, this indicates that He would open their understanding, so they could receive God's Word. However, there were those among them that were haters of Christ. They despised Him. They were trying to cause division. They sowed discord. They made up things and lied about Jesus. They were trouble makers. Many of these were the religious leaders in the days of Jesus.

These, that had hardened their hearts, these would hear or listen, but they would not understand.

Jesus spoke to the people in parables. This is explained in **Mt 13:13-16**-Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears,

**Mt 15:11.** Not that which goeth (or enters) into the mouth defileth a man; (or what goes into a man's mouth does not make him unclean) but that which cometh (or proceeds) out of the mouth, this defileth (or defiles) (or makes) a man (unclean).

and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

God's Word is a closed book to most. Many people have a Bible, but they don't understand most of it. The Bible, in some homes, collects dust.

Ask some, "Do you love Christ?" They answer, "Yes." Then ask them why His words collect dust sitting on a table, or why is your Bible hidden away? Then they get mad and tell you to leave. Is God telling YOU to LISTEN AND also to UNDERSTAND?

As it has been said in **Mt 15:10**, And (after) he called the multitude (or crowd) (to Him), and (He) said unto them, Hear, (or listen) and understand:

**Mt 15:11.** Verse 11 and 18 go together.

Jesus now seeks to explain what does and does not defile a person, or makes a person unclean.

This still relates to Mt 15:1 and 2, when the scribes and Pharisees accused the disciples of Jesus as transgressing the tradition of the elders, as they did not ceremonially wash their hands when they ate bread.

Jesus tells the multitude, but also the scribes and Pharisees, that whatever a person eats or goes into a person's mouth does not make him unclean, or does not defile him.

It is that which comes out of a person that defiles a person.

Many people in these latter days take God's name in vain or curse God's name, over and



**Mt 15:12.** Then came his disciples, and said unto him (and asked), Knowest thou (or did you know) that the Pharisees were offended, after (or when) they heard this saying (or statement)?

over, and over.

These are the people that are unclean. Their whole being seems filled with cursing, anger, lying, deceit, hatred and gossip. On the outside, they may look like really nice people, but on the inside they are not.

Some may wear expensive clothes. They may drive a fancy car and live in a beautiful house. They may have the finest things money can buy, but on the inside, they are full of dead men's bones.

They may throw a party for people they know, but when their friends leave, they gossip about them, and say things they would never say to their face.

Indeed, no matter how much soap a person uses, no matter how many universities a person goes to, no matter how many self-help courses a person takes, a man's heart is Jere 17:9-DECEITFUL ABOVE ALL THINGS, AND DESPERATELY WICKED: WHO CAN KNOW IT?

As it has been said in **Mt 15:11**, Not that which goeth (or enters) into the mouth defileth a man; (or what goes into a man's mouth does not make him unclean) but that which cometh (or proceeds) out of the mouth, this defileth (or defiles) (or makes) a man (unclean).

**Mt 15:12.** Then came the disciples to Jesus. When the disciples had come to Jesus, they asked Him, "Knowest thou (or did you know) that the Pharisees were offended, after (or when) they heard this saying (or statement)?" The unsaved don't love correction. Those that love God's Word should want correction.

It appears the disciples had been with Jesus, then they had separated for perhaps a few minutes or longer, but now had returned.

**Mt 15:13.** But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father (did not or) hath (or has) not planted, shall be rooted up (or pulled up by the roots).

As it has been said in **Mt 15:12**, Then came his disciples, and said unto him (and asked), Knowest thou (or did you know) that the Pharisees were offended, after (or when) they heard this saying (or statement)?

**Mt 15:13.** Note that Jesus answered what was asked, but then He went on to give additional information in what He said.

"Every plant" represents a person. In this case, the plants that were not planted by God in heaven shall be rooted up.

Then Jesus states that there are two sources from which plants (which are people) are planted.

One is His heavenly Father.

The other is a different source.

Some are of God. Most are of their father the devil. As it is written, For the **desolate** hath many more children than she which hath an husband-Gal 4:27.

Yet the blind don't know they are blind until they die and are in hell being tormented. The blind cannot be corrected by God's Word. Those that are of God should love correction from the Bible so they can grow in Christ.

Every person that is not planted by God the Father, shall be pulled up by the roots. In other words, they shall perish. There shall be no part of the root left that it might come back.

Oftentimes, the unsaved and the saved can look very much alike. However, the words "childlikeness toward correction" separates them. Can God's Word easily correct "YOU?"

As it has been said in **Mt 15:13**, But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father (did not or) hath (or has) not

### **(Blind leaders of the blind)**

**Mt 15:14.** Let (or leave) them alone: they be (or are) blind leaders (or guides) of the blind. And if the blind (or if a blind man) lead (or guides) (or leads) the blind (man), both shall fall into the ditch (or into a pit).

planted, shall be rooted up (or pulled up by the roots).

### **(Blind leaders of the blind)**

**Mt 15:14.** The parable of the wheat and tares is in harmony with this parable-ref Mt 13:24-30.

Jesus tells His disciples to let the blind leaders of the blind alone. Don't mess with them. Don't correct them. Both they and their followers shall perish into a pit.

Jesus further describes them as the **blind leaders OF THE BLIND**. They are false teachers. They are false clergy. It may be said that they are

**false** leaders,  
or guides,  
or people,  
or rabbi,  
priests,  
preachers,  
teachers,  
elders,  
scribes,  
and even false christis.

As said, the people that willingly choose to follow the blind leaders, they will also perish just as the blind leaders will. They both will be in the eternal lake of fire.

Today, both the radio, television, internet, and even on some street corners, there are many clergy deceiving the people and millions are deceived. They may listen to many blind leaders, but usually spend little time in God's Word, which should help them to identify those which are not of God. People want preachers to teach nice things, not the truth of mandatory repentance and obeying God's Word.

Then Jesus gives what is the terrifying future for both these blind teachers and any that

follow such as these, or perhaps even support them.

They **all** shall fall into a pit. The ditch or pit represents hell and the lake of fire for eternity.

Few **confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh**. We do. If you do not understand what this means, then search the Scriptures, so you may understand.

As it has been said in

1 Jn 4:2, 3-Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that **CONFESSETH THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH IS OF GOD**: And every spirit that **CONFESSETH NOT** that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh **IS NOT OF GOD**: and this is "that spirit" of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

2 Jn 7-For **many deceivers** are entered into the world, who **CONFESS NOT that JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH**. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Jesus did not seek to destroy them. He determined to let them continue. They served a purpose. A person's heart determines who or what each person will follow.

Many followed these **blind** leaders, even as it is to this very day. The blind **FAR OUTNUMBER** those that "can" see.

Gal 4:27-For it is written,...for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. The desolate are the unsaved. Those that hath an husband are the followers of Christ. In other words, there are far, far, far more people that will be in the lake of fire, than those that will be with Jesus. Does anyone believe they will go to hell? Anyone? Yet nearly **ALL DO**.

As it is today, so it has always been.

The blind clergy, the false ministers and elders, and those that follow them far, far, far outnumber those few that follow Jesus. Ye shall know them by their fruits.

Regretfully, most people are so biblically illiterate, they don't even understand what "their fruits" even mean.

People send in millions and millions of dollars to support the **blind teachers of the blind** that are on the radio and television.

Again, how many do you hear that confess that **JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH?**

How many preach on **sin**, hell and the **lake of fire**, the **judgments**, and **repentance**.

How many tell the people they are commanded to be baptized by full immersion after repentance?-ref Acts 2:38.

Mt 28:19-20-Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost**: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

**ANY** preacher, or Bible teacher, or clergy that believes in sprinkling baptism is so biblically illiterate that they will also believe many other things incorrectly. Do not follow such as these.

The false teaching they bring forth reflects the falseness or we may say, hardness in a person's heart.

False doctrines seem to find many to feed. It is as candy to many.

Good, sound doctrine seems to find very few to feed. It may be difficult to swallow for some, but it saves the soul and brings spiritual rest.

The following verses reflect how that the unsaved person may appear to be saved.

Lk 11:39-52

Ro 10:2,3

Lk 13:24-27

Mt 7:21-23

Lk 18:9-14

Lk 20:46,47

Mt 23:1-30

Ro 2:17-23

Acts 10:2

Jere 12:2

2 Cor 5:12

2 Cor 11:15

Titus 1:16

1 Jn 2:9

Isa 1:11-15

Isa 29:13

Isa 48:1,2

Isa 58:2,3; 65:5.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:14**, Let (or leave) them alone: they be (or are) blind leaders (or guides) of the blind. And if the blind (or if a blind man) lead (or guides) (or leads) the blind (man), both shall fall into the ditch (or into a pit).

**(Peter wants the parable to be explained)**

**Mt 15:15.** Peter seems to have been the most out-going of the followers of Jesus. He often seems to have spoken for the rest of the disciples.

He wanted Jesus to explain the parable to all of them.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:15**, Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare (or

**(Peter wants the parable to be explained)**

**Mt 15:15.** Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare (or explain) unto us this (or the) parable.

**Mt 15:16.** And Jesus said, Are ye (or you) also yet without (or are you still lacking in) understanding (or are you still so dull)?

**Mt 15:17.** Do not ye yet (or do you not) understand (or don't you see), that whatsoever (or everything) (that) entereth in at (or into) the mouth goeth into the belly (or stomach), and is (then) cast out into the draught (or is eliminated) (out of the body)?

explain) unto us this (or the) parable.

**Mt 15:16.** The response of Jesus was not what Peter had expected.

First, Jesus asks Peter a question. He said, Are you still lacking in understanding, or are you still so dull? This might offend some people. If God's Word offends you, you need to repent.

It is as if Jesus believed that they should have understood the parable by this time. This was about 31 months into the 3 year ministry of Jesus. There was only about 5 more months before He was to be crucified.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:16**, And Jesus said, Are ye (or you) also yet without (or are you still lacking in) understanding (or are you still so dull)?

**Mt 15:17.** Jesus continues by saying: Don't you see or understand?

Then Jesus continues to explain to Peter and all present the meaning of the parable or riddle.

He continues by saying that all that enters into a person's mouth goes into their stomach. After that, it is eliminated out of the body.

This parable was hard for some to understand, even many years later. As Acts 10:14 reveals-Peter replied, "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

V.15-The voice spoke to him a second time, Do not call anything impure that God has made clean-NIV.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:17**, Do not ye yet (or do you not) understand (or don't you see), that whatsoever (or everything) (that) entereth

**Mt 15:18.** But those things which proceed (or come) out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they (or those) defile the man (or make a man unclean).

in at (or into) the mouth goeth into the belly (or stomach), and is (then) cast out into the draught (or is eliminated) (out of the body)?

**Mt 15:18.** He continues by saying, **But** those things that a person speaks out of their mouth comes from a person's heart. The things that come from a person's heart, these things make a person unclean.

Thoughts come from the heart, then things come out of the mouth, then actions follow, and then the person is defiled and sins.

Not every thing a person thinks and his mouth speaks is sin. But a man is defiled when they do speak certain things. The lusts of the flesh and of all sorts of things, the deceitfulness of riches, the cares of this life, the pleasures of this life, can become great distractions to some and even become gods to some people. There is no place in many people's hearts for God's Word, or for God. Indeed, much that proceeds from the heart of people makes the person unclean, and it is sin.

Many things that come from a person's heart tends to try and exalt himself in the eyes of others. Consider, boastfulness, lusts, sex, and a desire for a beautiful woman, or vice versa, pride, self-exaltation, desires for riches and things, and even love for the world and its comforts and pleasures, or even continual complainings, and jealousy and dissatisfaction with the way God does certain things, can defile the man and make him unclean.

Many accuse God for what Satan does.

**Why don't people ever curse Satan's name?** But many **curse God's name**, which is HOLY. The very speech of most people reflects there is no fear of God before their eyes; yet God is greatly to be feared in the



**Mt 15:19.** For out of the **heart** proceed (or come) evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications (or sexual immorality), thefts, false witness (or false testimony, blasphemies (or slanders).

assembly of the saints; yet He is not feared in most churches or by most professing Christians.

Does not every person have some sort of philosophy, or creed or belief? Nevertheless, man's thoughts are seldom centered in God's WORD, which is Jesus.

Many of the religious leaders spoke all kinds of lies about Jesus. Some made many dishonest accusations.

Jesus did that which was right in the eyes of His Father, but they were not right in the eyes of the those that had their own agenda.

God, the Father said in Mt 3:17-AND LO A VOICE FROM HEAVEN, SAYING, THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED. This is repeated in similar words in Mt 17:5; Mk 1:11; Lk 3:22; and in 2 Pe 1:17.

God the Father was pleased with what Jesus spoke. The religious leaders were not.

All that follow Jesus need to guard what they say. A Christian's conversation should be Col 4:6-Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:18**, But those things which proceed (or come) out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they (or those) defile the man (or make a man unclean).

**Mt 15:19.** Where do **evil thoughts**, sexual immorality, and all sin come from? God tells us in His Word that it is from our own heart.

Where does mistrust, lying, and all that is evil come from? God's Word tells us it is from our own heart.

When Satan puts evil and lying thoughts in our mind, our **own heart chooses** whether to dwell on these things or to reject them. Our own heart chooses whether to act on them or not to act on them.

It is the heart that is desperately (or horribly) wicked-ref Jere 17:9 For there is no sin in word or deed, which was not first in the heart.

Note Mt 15:28 again: For out of the heart proceed (or come)

**evil thoughts** (some people's thoughts are almost evil continually),

**murders** (may not be just the act, but it can be your desire),

**adulteries** (v.28 states whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart),

**fornications** (or sexual immorality),

**thefts** (or stealing),

**false witness** (or false testimony) (this is also the 9th commandment),

**blasphemies** (or slanders). (It can include slandering and speaking of God or His Word, which is one and the same).

Then there is the also the unforgivable sin, which is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Beware. Fear God.

These all come out of the man and are the fruits (or results) of that desperately (or overwhelming) wickedness and deceitfulness that is in the heart.

First, there is the heart.

Then, thoughts arise.

Then, the mouth speaks,  
and then, actions follow.

And as a result, the person's fruits can be determined, whether they be in line with the Bible or not.

Those that are of the world follow the ways of

the world.

Those that follow God's Word should do as God's Word says.

Are you already condemned? John 3:18-He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

The Word of God reveals a person's heart and deceitfulness and wickedness. God's Word teaches humbleness.

Yes, the Ten Commandments reveal sin. However, God's Word, throughout the Bible, reveals sin, also.

During the Millennium, when Satan is sealed so he cannot deceive any person or nation, there will be 1000 years of peace. The world will love the Jews and Israel.

Jesus shall reign as the King of kings and Lord of lords over the whole world. Wars will cease. All sin should cease. Satan is the father of lies. There is no truth in him.

Only the blood of Jesus can wash away our sins. But this does not come, unless there is first repentance, and then faith in Jesus Christ. True faith does not come automatically. Faith only comes as a result of hearing or being in God's Word, of which few people are.

Once again, here is the process. Satan understands the things that be of men. He understands your desires, whether it is something regarding sex, or some other lusts, or cares, or whatever. Then Satan may set up a situation, so you can attain your sinful desire. Then many sin.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:19**, For out of the heart proceed (or come) evil thoughts,

**Mt 15:20.** These are the things which defile a man (or what make a man unclean): but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not (or does not defile) a (or make) (the) man (unclean).

murders, adulteries, fornications (or sexual immorality), thefts, false witness (or false testimony, blasphemies (or slanders).

**Mt 15:20.** As already somewhat covered, evil thinking which comes from the heart about things like murders, adulteries, sexual immorality, or, we may say, perversion, or slanders, wickedness, and others, these make a person unclean.

It is sin, because these evil thoughts proceed out of the heart and can reflect a lack of the fear of God.

Jere 17:9-The heart is deceitful above **all things**, and **DESPERATELY** (or extremely, or terribly) wicked: who can know it?

V.10-I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

However, to eat with unwashen hands, these do not make a person unclean. It is not sin.

What defiles a man is what comes **out of his mouth**, not what goes into his mouth. What comes out of a person's mouth can affect his soul.

One should seek to purify their heart, and not be double-minded. Sin proceeds from the heart, then goes to the thoughts, then sinful actions come forth.

Regarding the Pharisees and their ceremonial washings of hands, it is written:

Mk 7:3-9-For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the **tradition of the elders**.

4-And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many

other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brazen vessels, and of tables.

5-Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him (which is Jesus), Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?

God forbid, the religious leaders were so totally deceived that they even tried to push their unbiblical traditions off on Jesus and His disciples.

6-He (Jesus) answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their **heart is far from me**.

7-Howbeit **in vain** do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

The worship of the Pharisees and scribes was worthless.

8-For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

9-And he said unto them, Full well **ye reject the commandment of God**, that ye may keep your own tradition.

It is no different today. Many, many pastors and churches have very unbiblical traditions they keep, and they ignore God's Word as their understanding is darkness. And the people that go to these churches are totally unaware of the darkness of their church and the darkness they are in, as that very darkness has blinded their eyes and thoughts.

Take, for an example, something easy to

understand, but many churches are in utter darkness, and those that attend them are not aware of them.

Water baptism, as clearly covered in the Scriptures, is for those that repent and have placed their trust in Jesus Christ as their only hope of salvation.

Then they go down into the water (full immersion) and come out into the newness of life, even as it is written.

There are many blind churches that **appear not** unto men to be blind. These are as the modern-day Pharisees. They are blind to the truth of the Scriptures (which is God's Word, which is Jesus). Many blind churches baptize by sprinkling. A person that may try to correct them with God's Word may find much hostility and no love at all.

A born again servant of God may find themselves being ushered out of the church or even having the police called on them as the clergy brings forth lying accusations. Yes, there are many, many modern-day Pharisees and scribes whose love is not extended to those that might correct them, even Jesus.

Even today there are scribes in Israel that very slowly and carefully copy scrolls, such as in Safed. They might be seen when walking on the path behind the buildings on the valley side of the mountain.

To make it plain, Mark 7:18, and 19 (NIV) tells us: ARE YOU SO DULL? he asked. Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him unclean? For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of the body. (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.")

As it has been said in **Mt 15:20**, These are

**Chronologically Mt 15:20 goes to Mk 7:1.  
Mk 7:1 goes to Mk 7:23.  
Mk 7:23 goes to Mt 15:21.**

**(The Woman of Canaan. Great Faith)**

**Mt 15:21.** (Leaving that place) then Jesus went thence (or went away from there), and departed (or withdrew) into the coasts (or district) of Tyre and Sidon.

the things which defile a man (or what make a man unclean): but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not (or does not defile) a (or make) (the) man (unclean).

The ministry of Jesus began when He was about 30 years of age.

It lasted approximately 3 years.  
Matthew 15:21-31 takes place approximately **32 months after He began His ministry.**

**(The Woman of Canaan. Great Faith)**

**Mt 15:21.** Jesus then left that place. That place appears to be the area around the Sea of Galilee.

The time period still appears to be around 30 months into the ministry of Jesus.

Much of the ministry of Jesus was around this sea.

Back in Mt 14:34, Jesus was in Gennesaret, which is south of Capernaum on the NW shore of the Sea of Galilee. He may have departed from this location and headed into the district of Tyre and Sidon. This area may not have been under Herod's authority.

From Capernaum, this should have been a distance of about 35 miles to Tyre, and about 50 miles to Sidon; however, in taking the trails back in those days, the distance is uncertain and may have been longer.

Sidon was a Phoenician city. It was prosperous; however, to drive it in a car, in these latter days, can be a long, roundabout distance because of limited border crossings and difficulty in the relations of some countries toward Israel. The NIV states He went to the vicinity of Tyre. The Scriptures do not state that He entered into any city in this location.

**Mt 15:22.** And, behold, a woman of **Canaan** (a Canaanite woman) (from that vicinity) came out of the same coasts (or came out from that region), and cried unto him (or began to cry out), saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed (or is cruelly possessed) (or is suffering terribly) with a devil (or demon) (or from demon-possession).

The people of this area appear to have been involved in idol worship.

Mk 7:25 states that Jesus entered into a house and would have no man know it; but He could not be hid, because of the next events that happened-ref Mk 7:24,25, regarding a certain woman's daughter being healed, which begins in Matthew's Gospel at Mt 15:22.

This appears to be the only time that Jesus traveled outside of the boundaries of Palestine.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:21**, (Leaving that place) Then Jesus went thence (or away from there), and departed (or withdrew) into the coasts (or district) of Tyre and Sidon.

**Mt 15:22.** As Jesus and his followers were traveling, a **Canaanite** woman from that same area found Jesus. She was a woman of great faith, even though she was not a Jew. The Jews did not fellowship with such people.

Mark 7:26 states she was a **Greek**, a **Syrophoenician** by nation.

This word is used one time in the KJV.

The word "Canaanite" is mentioned in the Bible 14 times. The word "Canaanites" is mentioned 54 times.

She began to cry out, begging for Jesus to have mercy on her. She addressed Jesus, as Lord, Thou son of David.

She was not only a woman of faith, but she seemed to be acknowledging that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah that was to come. In saying, "Thou son of David," she was acknowledging He was the heir of the throne of David. Yet she had no authority for such a claim. She was not a Jew.



**Mt 15:23.** But he (Jesus) answered her not a word. And (so) his disciples came (to Him) and besought (or urged) him (or kept asking Him), saying, Send her away; for she crieth (or is shouting out) (or she keeps crying out) after us.

She was crying out for her daughter. She told Jesus, my daughter is grievously vexed (or is cruelly possessed) (or is suffering terribly) with a devil (or demon) (or from demon-possession).

One may say that great faith produces persistence, even when things look hopeless.

In a manner of speaking, this event was revealing that salvation would not come only to the Jews, but also to the Gentiles.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:22**, And, behold, a woman of **Canaan** (a Canaanite woman) (from that vicinity) came out of the same coasts (or came out from that region), and cried unto him (or began to cry out), saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed (or is cruelly possessed) (or is suffering terribly) with a devil (or demon) (or from demon-possession).

**Mt 15:23.** Despite her persistence in calling out to Jesus, and even acknowledging that He was the Son of David, and her calling Jesus, **Lord**, He ignored her completely. Yet He did not command her to leave or depart.

Nevertheless, she kept following them and saying: O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed (or is cruelly possessed) (or is suffering terribly) with a devil (or demon) (or from demon-possession).

Finally, the disciples came to Jesus after they saw that Jesus ignored her. Exactly how long a time it was that she persisted is not known.

Finally, His disciples advised Jesus to send her away, as she was very persistent in shouting out, and it appeared what she was

**Mt 15:24.** But he answered and said, I am not sent but (or I was sent only) unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

doing was very irritating. It appeared she would not stop.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:23**, But he (Jesus) answered her not a word. And (so) his disciples came (to Him) and besought (or urged) him (or kept asking Him), saying, Send her away; for she crieth (or is shouting out) (or she keeps crying out) after us.

**Mt 15:24.** Jesus finally spoke up.

The words of Jesus indicate He was sent. In His reply, He said: I am not sent, but... Jesus was **sent** by His Father in heaven.

Then, in His reply, He explained the reason why she was being ignored. It was because He was only sent to (1) the "**lost**" **sheep** (2) **of the house of Israel**.

In Mk 7:27, Jesus also said, Let the children first be filled. In other words: **To the Jew first**.

Regretfully, for the most part, Jesus was rejected by His own people. He was crucified, but rose from the dead. In 70 A.D., Israel ceased to exist. It was not until May 14, 1948 that Israel once again became a nation. This began day one of the latter days, or latter years.

Mk 7:25 NIV shows that Jesus entered a house, and did not want anyone to know it; yet, He could not keep His presence secret.

Back in Mt 10:6, Jesus instructed the twelve to only go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Note, it did not say, He was sent to those who were sure they were saved, such as the Pharisees and scribes.

However, He was sent to those that might repent, as some did.

**Mt 15:25.** Then came she (the woman) and worshipped (or began to bow down) (or knelt) (before) him, saying, Lord, help me.

**Mt 15:26.** But He answered and said (or replied), It is not meet (or it is not good) (or it is not right) to take the children's bread, and to cast (or throw) it to (the, or their) dogs.

This woman was not a Jew. She was not of the house of Israel. She was not of the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:24**, But he answered and said, I am not sent but (or I was sent only) unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

**Mt 15:25.** Most people would have been discouraged at this point. However, although she may have been discouraged at this point, she was not about to give up.

She needed help, and she needed it badly. And Jesus was the only one she believed could help her regarding her daughter being possessed with a demon.

Did she give up? No. She persisted. She worshipped Jesus again and knelt before him. It appears, while on her knees, she pleaded with Jesus, "Lord, help me."

As it has been said in **Mt 15:25**, Then came she (the woman) and worshipped (or began to bow down) (or knelt) (before) him, saying, Lord, help me.

**Mt 15:26.** But Jesus replied to the Canaanite woman that it was not right or good for the children's bread (that is, the things which were meant for the Jews) (the children of Israel) to be given to their dogs. Note the word "children." To be a follower of Jesus, one needs to become childlike to correction. God's Word is the bread of life for those that have humbled themselves and become as little children.

Regretfully, many of the "children" (or childlike Jews) had become very hard. Although many followed Jesus, most did reject Him.

Consider the following.

v. 22. The woman of Canaan, she went begging for help for her daughter, which needed help badly, as she was being horribly tormented by a devil. She was begging for mercy.

v. 23. Then Jesus would not even speak to her.

v. 23. Then the disciples of Jesus advised Him to send her away.

v. 24. Jesus made it clear, He was only sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

v. 25. Yet she worshipped Him and still asked for help.

v. 26. Then Jesus makes it clear that there seemed to be no hope for her daughter, as He was only sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

v 26. In effect, Jesus was now calling this Canaanite woman a **dog**. It was not uncommon for the Jews to call the Gentiles dogs. They were the uncircumcised. It was, as one might say, a put down.

Yet such events test one's faith and love. Born again Christians are often called names. Some are abused. Some are thrown in jail. Some are tortured. Some are killed for their faith in Jesus Christ, especially in Moslem countries.

The woman, who lived not very far from Israel, had not only heard of the fame of Jesus, but she probably understood Israel's hope regarding the coming of the Messiah, the Promised One.

**Mt 15:27.** And (or but) she said, Truth (or yes), Lord: yet (even) the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:26**, But He answered and said (or replied), It is not meet (or it is not good) (or it is not right) to take the children's bread, and to cast (or throw) it to (the, or their) dogs.

**Mt 15:27.** Was this woman insulted as a result? Did she now give up? Did she go away mad?

v. 27. No, she did not give up. Rather she agreed with Him, when she said, "Truth Lord." She agreed she was nothing more than a dog.

She knew she was not deserving of anything from Jesus. She was not a Jew. She had no legal claim to anything. However, she did have **faith**.

v. 27. Then she did the unexpected. She said: Yet (even) the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

True **faith** is not easily offended.

That kind of **faith** (or trust) is rare any more in this Laodicean church age we are now in.

One may say that true faith can be measured by a lack of evil thoughts toward Jesus or those in Christ.

**This woman had great faith-v. 28.** This kind of faith Jesus was looking for in Israel, but it **seemed to be lacking**.

In addition, Mt 8: 5-10 speaks of the **centurion** that humbled himself and **had great faith**, such as Jesus had not seen in Israel. That had happened about 9 months previously.

For those reading or hearing this, it is now time to put off being easily offended and being critical of others. It is time to put on faith that works by love and faith that overcomes and is

thankful for both the good and the bad. **BE YE THANKFUL**-Col 3:15.

It is time to **BE THANKFUL**, even when things are not going the way you want them to go.

It is good to **STOP COMPLAINING**, lest you be left by the wayside.

Is complaining, and complaining, and complaining what Jesus did when He was tortured almost beyond looking like He was human?

Did the apostles complain and complain? As followers of Jesus, let us act as Christ would act in all situations.

Do all things without murmurings and complainings.

Even though it is little understood by those of shallow faith, it needs to be said, as this is for all **real Christians**. This even includes those that are in jail, being tormented in some prison for their faith in Christ.

Going through hardships and difficulties is a way of life for the Christian to prove or test their faith to see if it is genuine. Murmurings and complainings reflect little faith, not strong faith. Murmurings and complainings reflect a little understanding of the Bible for the person doing such things. It is far removed from great faith.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:27**, And (or but) she said, Truth (or yes), Lord: yet (even) the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

**Mt 15:28.** Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith (or your faith is great):(or you have great faith) be it (done) unto

**Mt 15:28.** The answers that the woman gave indicated that her faith was great, even though she was not a Jew.

thee (or for you) even as thou wilt (or as you wish) (or your request is granted). And her daughter was made whole (or was healed) from that very hour (or at once).

Then Jesus appears ready to give her beyond her request. First, He tells her that her faith was great.

Then Jesus seems to tell her that "as thou wilt" be it done. In other words, if she wanted even more, this may also be done or granted. Because of her great faith and persistence, her desire was granted.

At once or at that very same hour, her daughter, which was in another location, was healed.

When the woman finally came to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed-ref Mk 7:30.

Thus, Jesus, the King of Israel, Who had been reject by many in Israel, ministered to a Gentile woman.

One may also say that **true faith** in love can be measured by a lack of evil or wrong thoughts, even when a situation appears to be hopeless.

It is written: Gal 5:6-For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but **faith which worketh by love**.

This was a brief look at what was to follow many years later, as the Gospel would eventually be taken to the whole world.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:28**, Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith (or your faith is great):(or you have great faith) be it (done) unto thee (or for you) even as thou wilt (or as you wish) (or your request is granted). And her daughter was made whole (or was healed) from that very hour (or at once).

**Chronologically Mt 15:28 goes to Mk 7:24.**

**Mk 7:24 goes to Mk 7:30.**

**Mk 7:30 goes to Mt 15:29.**

**(Multitudes healed)**

**Mt 15:29.** And Jesus departed from thence (or from there), and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee (or went along the Sea of Galilee); and went up (or having gone up) into a mountain, and sat down there (or was sitting there).

**(Multitudes healed)**

**Mt 15:29.** Jesus had been in the coastal areas of Tyre and Sidon, when the Canaanite woman had come to Him.

Jesus now departs from there and approached the Sea of Galilee. Mk 7:31 indicates Jesus went through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis. This is a large area of 10 cities, all on the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee and Jordan River, except one.

Today, most of these cities are in Jordan, Syria, and three in Israel.

It is unclear where He was regarding the Sea. The distance He traveled was perhaps 35 or more miles.

Now He goes up into a mountain and sat down. The mountain is not identified.

On the western side of the Sea are hills, or what might be called low mountains.

The Golan Heights on the eastern side of the Sea are sometimes higher.

Jesus went up one of the mountains or hills, and then sat down there.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:29**, And Jesus departed from thence (or from there), and came nigh unto the **sea of Galilee** (or went along the Sea of Galilee); and went up (or having gone up) **into a mountain**, and sat down there (or was sitting there).



### (Multitudes bring the sick)

**Mt 15:30.** And great multitudes (or great crowds) came unto him, having (or bringing) with them those that were lame (or the crippled), (the) blind, (the) dumb, maimed (or, we may say, crippled or missing a limb-interpretation), and many others, and cast them down (or laid them down) at Jesus' feet; and he healed them:

### (Multitudes bring the sick)

**Mt 15:30.** Verse 30 uses the words "great multitudes" came unto Jesus. This may indicate that there were several thousand.

Among these some were crippled, some were blind, and others were dumb, or maimed.

People laid them down at the feet of Jesus.

Then Jesus did what no human being could ever do. He did what no doctor or hospital could ever do or has ever done.

**He healed them on the spot**, instantly. They needed no recovery time.

Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such a thing?

Those that were healed included the dumb, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. The people began to glorify and praise the God of Israel. There is no biblical example where Jesus replaced an arm or hand, but he did recreate eyes-ref Jn 9:6, and restored the ear of the servant of the high priest, when it had been cut off-ref Lk 23:50,51.

One might only imagine what some of the religious leaders that also followed Him must have thought.

A few may have glorified God, but some did not. They were mad. They were envious. They loved the praise of men, and now this man was being glorified, and they were (so to speak) being left behind. Some of these false, religious leaders were often clothed in beautiful clothing, but Jesus was not. The religious leaders of Israel could do nothing in comparison to what Jesus was doing.

In addition, at times, Jesus did speak against the Pharisees, the scribes, and others that loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

One might wonder, how is it possible that everyone did not believe, after so many incredible miracles had happened? The answer is that no one can come to Jesus, unless the Father draw them-ref Jn 6:65.

In like manner, there are many wonderful miracles in the Bible. So, then, why doesn't everyone get saved that reads the Bible? It is because they believe the lying thoughts in their head from the devil, more than they trust in God's Word. Their heart is a wayside heart-ref Mt 13:4,19. Satan is able to take God's Word out of their heart as fast as they put it in.

Regretfully, in this latter day generation, many preachers preach so little of God's actual word, that Satan is able to deceive the people easily.

The (so-called) ministers that are storytellers, and ignore God's Word, such are in disobedience to God's Word. For it is written: 2 Tim 4:2-**PREACH THE WORD**; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and **doctrine**.

The location appears to have been in the **western or northwestern part of the Sea of Galilee** in an area that had some hills. However, it would appear to have been an area that was not being farmed at that time.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:30**, And great multitudes (or great crowds) came unto him, having (or bringing) with them those that were lame (or the crippled), (the) blind, (the) dumb, maimed (or, we may say, crippled or missing a limb-interpretation), and many others, and cast them down (or laid them down) at Jesus' feet; and he healed them:

**Mt 15:31.** Insomuch that the multitude (or people) wondered (or were amazed) (or marveled, when (or as) they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed (or crippled) to be whole (or restored) (or made well), the lame to walk (or walking), and the blind to see (or seeing): and they glorified (or praised) the God of Israel.

**Mt 15:31.** As in the previous verse, the multitude, which was probably several thousand men, plus women and children, these were amazed, or what might also be said is they were astonished beyond what any human words could express. One might say they were speechless. One can only imagine the fear that must have come upon some as they were healed, and saw others healed. The impossible that could not happen was happening.

The dumb, which could not talk, began to speak.

The crippled all of a sudden became well.

Those that were lame were now able to walk.

Those that were blind, now could see.

Whatever problem a person had was healed.

As a result, the people glorified and praised the God of Israel.

Never, in the history of the world, have such things been healed. And beside this, the number of people that were healed was many.

One can imagine many falling on their face and offering praise upon praise to the God of heaven. Multitudes were probably gasping, and talking and many were probably crying for joy. There should have been some that had been dumb or blind, or crippled from their birth or childhood. Now, all of a sudden, the impossible was happening, they became normal.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:31**, Insomuch that the multitude (or people) wondered (or were amazed) (or marveled, when (or as) they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed (or crippled) to be whole (or restored) (or made well) , the lame to walk (or walking), and the blind to see (or seeing): and they glorified (or

**Chronologically, Mt 15:31 goes to Mk 7:31.**

**Mk 7:31 goes to Mk 7:37.**

**Mk 7:37 goes to Mt 15:32.**

**(Multitudes Fed)  
(The seven loaves and the fish)**

**Mt 15:32.** Then (or And) Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have (or feel) compassion on (or for) the multitude (or these people), because they continue (or have remained) (or been) with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not (or do not want to) send them away fasting (or hungry), lest they faint (or collapse) in (or on) the way.

praised) the God of Israel.

The ministry of Jesus began when He was about 30 years of age.

It lasted approximately 3 years.

Matthew 15:32-39 takes place approximately 33 months after He began His ministry.

**(Multitudes Fed)  
(The seven loaves and the fish)**

**Mt 15:32.** Following the massive, almost unbelievable healings that took place, Jesus called His disciples.

He told them that He had compassion (or sympathy, pity, concern, sorrow, or sadness) for the multitude of people.

They had been following Jesus for **three days**. Up to this time, many had nothing to eat, although some may have brought something with them. Jesus realized that if He would send them away, some would be so weak, they might collapse after they left.

One might consider, how many in the United States would follow Jesus, even though they had nothing to eat for 3 days? The answer is probably very few. The number 3 appears in the Bible approximately 484 times.

Now, the problem was, what could be done for these people that had nothing to eat?

As it has been said in **Mt 15:32**, Then (or And) Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have (or feel) compassion on (or for) the multitude (or these people), because they

**Mt 15:33.** And his disciples say (or said) (or answered) unto him, Whence (or where) should (or would) (or could) we have (or get) so much (or enough) bread (or so many loaves) in the wilderness (or in a desolate) (or remote place), as to fill (or feed) (or to satisfy) so great (or such) a (great) multitude (or crowd)?

**Mt 15:34.** And Jesus saith (or said) unto them, (or asked) How many loaves have ye (or do you have)? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes (or small fish).

continue (or have remained) (or been) with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not (or do not want to) send them away fasting (or hungry), lest they faint (or collapse) in (or on) the way.

**Mt 15:33.** Jesus told His disciples He did not want to send the people away.

The disciples then responded with a question.

Collectively, it appears they asked Jesus, where could they get so many loaves of bread as to feed so many people. They explained they were in a remote or desolate place, and the number of people was great. It appears they persisted in saying, how could they satisfy such a great crowd of people?

As it has been said in **Mt 15:33**, And his disciples say (or said) (or answered) unto him, Whence (or where) should (or would) (or could) we have (or get) so much (or enough) bread (or so many loaves) in the wilderness (or in a desolate) (or remote place), as to fill (or feed) (or to satisfy) so great (or such) a (great) multitude (or crowd)?

**Mt 15:34.** Jesus did not ignore them. He answered their question with a question. Jesus asked how many loaves did they have.

They disciples collectively answered that they had seven loaves of bread and a few little fish.

Jesus knew what He was going to do. There was going to be another miracle, the likes of which no man had ever seen.

We are reminded how that God rained manna from heaven for the children of Israel. They wandered 40 years in the wilderness and were never without food, till the end.

**Mt 15:35.** And he commanded (or directed) (or told) the multitude (or crowd) to sit down on the ground.

**Mt 15:36.** And he took the seven loaves and the fishes (or fish), and gave thanks, and brake (or broke) them, and gave (or started giving them) to his disciples, and the disciples (in turn) to the multitude (or multitudes) (or people).

As it has been said in **Mt 15:34**, And Jesus saith (or said) unto them, (or asked) How many loaves have ye (or do you have)? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes (or small fish).

**Mt 15:35.** And Jesus, as He did previously, directed the great multitude of people to sit down. Nothing is said that He had others do it for Him.

They sat down on the ground. Perhaps a few might have had a blanket. However, those that followed Him were usually very poor, and some needed healing of all sorts of diseases. Some were crippled.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:35**, And he commanded (or directed) (or told) the multitude (or crowd) to sit down on the ground.

**Mt 15:36.** After Jesus commanded the multitude to set down, He took the seven loaves and the fish.

Then He gave thanks.

When we give thanks, we pray in the name of Jesus to the Father.

Jesus would have prayed and given thanks directly to the Father.

Any that follow Jesus, in like manner, are to give thanks and be thankful; for apart from God's mercy, we could not even take our next breath.

Then He broke them. We are reminded that when a person comes to Jesus, he needs to be broken and come to repentance. A person that comes to Jesus, but repentance is absent, is a person that has not come to Jesus. A sinner's prayer, as many teach, is nothing, if repentance and trusting in Jesus (which is God's Word) is absent.

Then He started giving them to His disciples.

Then His disciples began giving them to the multitude of people.

The loaves can be a picture of God's Word. God Word is given to the apostles, or preachers, who give it to the people.

If seven loaves were broken into two pieces, there was more than enough to give a piece to each of the apostles, plus the unknown amount of fish.

But the breaking continued, and continued, and the multitude was fed.

The breaking of a person that comes to Jesus begins with repentance.

Pride must be destroyed.

Humbleness must replace pride.

Dependence on oneself must be transformed into dependence on Jesus through faith.

Then as one continues in God's Word, repentance becomes a daily requirement. As John said: Jn 3:30-He (God) must increase, but I must decrease.

Likewise, if Jesus had to decrease and His dependence on His Father had to increase, how much more must our self-dependence be broken and replaced with our dependence on Jesus only.

To be born again is exactly that. The repentant person has to die to themselves in order to be resurrected. Partial repentance is not the order of the day. It is total repentance, and then the rebuilding begins with devouring God's Word which produces faith and total dependence on Jesus.

Many start the journey, but never finish it.

They fall by the wayside. They take a detour. The cares of this life, or pleasures, or lusts, or riches become detours. They fall back in

**Mt 15:37.** And they did all eat (or ate), and were filled (or satisfied): and they took (or picked) up (afterwards) of the broken meat (or pieces) that was left (over) seven (large) baskets full.

Consider.....

darkness and never know it, because the darkness has blinded their eyes. Then they perish, even though they were positive they would not.

Few churches teach as Jesus did, and the results are that the lukewarm Christians will not be in heaven, but in the lake of fire. Did you know that?

As it has been said in **Mt 15:36**, And he took the seven loaves and the fishes (or fish), and **gave thanks**, and **brake** (or broke) them, and **gave** (or started giving them) to his disciples, and the disciples (in turn) to the multitude (or multitudes) (or people).

**Mt 15:37.** And they, which is the multitude of people, ALL did eat.

All were satisfied.

Afterward, **seven** large **baskets** full were left over **of the broken meat**-ref v.37. These baskets appear to have been larger than those used in the previous feeding-ref Mt 14:20. One estimate puts the size as big enough to hold a person.

Note, the meat was broken.

Note. The meat of God's Word is perfection. It is for those that have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil-ref Heb 5:14.

But then in **Mt 16:10**, it speaks of the **7 loaves** being **taken up**, and the meat is not mentioned.

It has been said, the number 7 in the Bible is associated with divine perfection and completion.

The verse says nothing of any of the loaves being left over. Only the meat, which was the



**Mt 15:38.** And they (or those) (or the number of those) that did eat (or ate) were four thousand men, beside (or besides) women and children.

remainder of the fish, was there anything left.

There is an interesting thing to consider.

Conclusion, if both Mt 15:37 is considered with Mt 16:10, which we have yet to cover, it seems that both 7 baskets full of the bread was recovered, and also 7 baskets full of the meat also.

As just revealed, in v. 37, **seven** baskets full of **meat** were **taken up** and left over. Nothing is mentioned of the bread. As already alluded to, the two feedings are symbolic of the two groups that would in the future, be fed by God's Word--the Jews first, and then the Gentiles (or the rest of the world).

As it has been said in **Mt 15:37**, And they did all eat (or ate), and were filled (or satisfied): and they took (or picked) up (afterwards) of the broken meat (or pieces) that was left (over) seven (large) baskets full.

**Mt 15:38.** The number which did eat in this case was 4000 men. In addition, there may have been an estimated 6000 women and an estimated 4000 children. Considering it is the men that work to bring in an income more than the women, the number of women may have been higher.

It would appear that the total number may have been around 14,000 people.

The two feedings from Jesus, through the apostles, in two locations can reveal the Gospel being fed to the Jews first, and after this, to the Gentiles-ref Acts chapters 10 and 11. It reveals the Gospel will be given to men, women, and children.

As it has been said in **Mt 15:38**, And they (or those) (or the number of those) that did eat (or ate) were four thousand men, beside (or besides) women and children.

**Chronologically, Mt 15:38 goes to Mk 8:1.**

**Mk 8:1 goes to Mk 8:9.**

**Mk 8:9 goes to Mt 15:39.**

**(Jesus tempted)**

**Mt 15:39.** And (after) he (Jesus) sent away the multitude (or multitudes) (or crowd), and took ship (or got into a boat), and came (or went) into the coasts (or region) (or vicinity) of Magdala (or Magadan),

**Chronologically, Mt 15:39 continues to Mt 16:1.**



**(Jesus tempted)**

**Mt 15:39.** The next verse skips ahead a bit to after Jesus had sent the multitude away. The time period is **about 33 months into the ministry of Jesus.**

Jesus then got into a boat. The multitude had been in a wilderness area. Then He went to the vicinity of the town of Magdala. This is believed to be the town of Mary Magdalene.

This is located on the western wide of the Sea of Galilee, south of Capernaum, and not far from Tiberias. Many sightseeing tours pass by this area.

**Chronologically, Mt 15:39 continues to Mt 16:1.**

[Click here for Mt. Chapter 16](#)

