

MATTHEW

October 23, 2022

Matthew 15:29-39

READ

Matthew 15:29-39 Mark 7:31-8:10

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

1. Jesus leads the disciples from the district of Tyre & Sidon to the region of Decapolis (Mark 7:31). Why would Jesus make back-to-back visits to predominantly Gentile regions? (These are not the lost sheep of the house of Israel.)

2. What does Jesus do for the Gentiles in the Decapolis (v. 30)?

What is the reaction of the Gentiles (v. 31; Mark 7:37)? What is notable about the reaction?

3. Identify some of the reasons this miraculous meal is a separate incident from the previous miraculous meal (c.f., 14:13-21).

4. Why does Jesus have compassion on the large crowds (v. 32)?

5. What strikes you about the response of the disciples to Jesus' statement of the need (v. 33)? Why would they respond this way?

6. What does Jesus do for the Gentile crowds (vv. 35-37)?

7. Jesus gives thanks over the loaves & fish (v. 36). Jesus is the Creator. Why is He thankful? What does this suggest to us?

8. What is Jesus trying to convey to the disciples in the last couple of incidents (15:21-39)? Why are they so slow in getting it? (What stands in the way of them getting it?)

“Why am I so slow to ‘get it’?” “What stands in the way of me getting it?”

What can turn this around? “What steps can I take?” “How can I better seize my God-given opportunities?”

PERSONAL RESPONSE

I will meditate on all the Lord’s benefits to me this week by . . .

I will be on the lookout for God-given opportunities this week by . . .

I will conduct myself with wisdom toward others (Colossians 4:5) this week by . . .