

**Study Guide**  
**The Kingdom Has Come**  
**Matthew 15:21-39**

**Big Idea:** Pursue Christ with great expectations!

To start the conversation, take turns sharing your first personal encounter with Jesus.

1. **Read Matthew 15:21-23** The disciples seem uncomfortable with the Canaanite woman asking Jesus for help. Have you ever found yourself in either the woman's or the disciples position? Discuss.
2. **Read Matthew 15: 24-28** What lessons can we learn from this passage? What can we discover about the woman from her reply?
3. What does this passage teach us about faith and perseverance?
4. **Take turns reading Matthew 15:29-31.** Let it sink in. What would it have been like to witness Jesus healing the blind, lame and crippled? What would worship have been like after such an event? Share about a time in your life where you witnessed a miracle.
5. **Read Matthew 15:32-39 and then read Matthew 14:13-21** What similarities can we glean from these two events? What was different? Discuss.

**Application for the week:**

Based on who God is, and what He has done, take some time this week to seek God's will and consider asking Him for something big.

*"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."* John 15:7

## Message Slides

**BIG IDEA:** Jesus wants us to pursue him with great expectation.

### I. Canaanite Woman Pursues Jesus in Distress (v. 21-28)

<sup>21</sup>And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us."

1. Jesus withdrew toward this district. - Was called at this point to people of Israel.
2. Canaanite woman pursued Jesus.

<sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." <sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." <sup>26</sup> And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." <sup>27</sup> She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly."

1. Jesus tests her faith.
2. The woman persists with expectation that He can heal.

*"Oh how often does great sorrow drive men and women to Christ, even as a fierce wind the Mariner to hasten to the harbor." - Charles Spurgeon*

### II. Great Crowds Pursue Jesus Up The Mountain (v. 29-31)

<sup>29</sup> Jesus went on from there and walked beside the Sea of Galilee. And he went up on *the mountain* and sat down there. <sup>30</sup> And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them, <sup>31</sup> so that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel.

1. Pursuit of Jesus takes work.
2. The crowds have great expectation that Jesus can heal.
3. Jesus moves.

**Big Idea:** Jesus wants us to pursue him with great expectation

**III. Jesus Does it... Again! (v. 32-39)** <sup>32</sup> Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way." <sup>33</sup> And the disciples said to him, "Where are we to get enough bread in such a desolate place to feed so great a crowd?" <sup>34</sup> And Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish." <sup>35</sup> And directing the crowd to sit down on the ground, <sup>36</sup> he took the seven loaves

and the fish, and having given thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>37</sup>And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up seven baskets full of the broken pieces left over. <sup>38</sup>Those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. <sup>39</sup>And after sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.”

**What does this show us about Jesus?** Jesus' Compassion  
(v. 32) - Matthew 14:14 Jesus' Patience (v. 34) - Matthew  
14:18 Jesus' Power (v. 35-38) - Matthew 14:19-21

**What does this show us?** To remember WHO God  
is. To remember WHAT He has done. To PURSUE  
with great expectation.

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