

“Closer Walk” Bible Study

Mining Matthew Chapter 15

Purpose: To share lives around the Scripture and through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit make happy and unexpected discoveries that change our lives and bring us closer in our walk with Jesus.

Getting us started

1. What one family tradition did you observe as a child, still do, and hope to see carried on in the next generation?
2. On what recent project have you felt like you were “the blind leading the blind”?
3. For what would you walk 100 miles? Why?
4. What do you often tend to forget: names, birthdays, keys, umbrellas, etc.? Why?

Getting us into Scripture

5. Jesus addresses three groups here (vv. 1, 10, 12). Who is Jesus harshest with? Why?
6. How does Jesus support his charge of hypocrisy? What does the example he uses (vv. 5-6) reveal about their hypocrisy? What does Isaiah say to the Pharisees (vv. 7-9)? To all religious people?
7. Why does Jesus call them “blind guides”? What’s their apparent relationship with God?
8. What is Jesus’ stance on adults caring for their parents?
9. How is “uncleanness” understood by the Pharisees? By Jesus?
10. How would Jesus’ accusers in 15:1 have viewed his 100-mile trip to this area?
11. What do we learn about the woman? About Jesus? About Jesus’ attitude toward non-Jews?
12. How does what Jesus is doing compare with Jewish expectations of the Messiah (see Isaiah 35:3-6)?
13. How does the feeding of the multitude compare with Matthew 14:13-21?
14. Having already seen a miraculous feeding, how do you account for the disciples’ lack of faith?
15. Why does Jesus heal and feed the crowds?

Getting Scripture into us

16. What traditions in your church might make it difficult for new people to feel at home there? How could you change these things?
17. What is one area in your life that needs changing in order to get your heart and mouth more in line with each other? What had God already done in you along that line?
18. When you deal with needy people or “outsiders,” are you more like the disciples or Jesus? Why?
19. How has God gone a long distance to heal you?
20. When you face overwhelming situations now, how well do you remember God’s provision for you in the past?
21. What would stimulate your memory of God’s mercy?
22. How helpful is it for you to hear the stories of the way God has worked in the lives of other Christians? Why?