

Matthew 15:21-16:20; Mk 7:24-8:30 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. In Matt 15:29-31 what was Jesus' next stop (v29) and what happened when He sat down (v30)? What was the effect of this (v31)?</p>	
<p>5. From Matt 15:32-39 what need arose (v32) and what was Jesus' desire (v32)? How did the disciples respond (33), what did He do (v34-36), and what occurred (v37-39)? What can we learn from this?</p>	
<p>6. Look at Matt 16:1-4. Who tested Jesus (v1) and what was the test (v1)? Was this the first time (see Matt 12:38-40)? What did Jesus tell them (v4) and why (v3-4)?</p>	
<p>7. Using Matt 16:5-12 what was Jesus' warning (v5-6) and what did the disciples think He meant (v7)? What was Jesus' explanation (v8, 9-11, 12)? What was the leaven (v12)? Why?</p>	
<p>8. Read Mark 8:22-26. Who did Jesus heal next (v22) and what was unusual about how He did it (v23-24, 25)? What did Jesus tell the man to do (v26)? What does this story teach us?</p>	
<p>9. According to Matt 16:13-17 what was Jesus' twofold question (v13, 15) and what was each answer (v14, 16)? Explain Peter's answer (v16). How did he know this (v17)?</p>	
<p>10. Based on Matt 16:16-20 upon what "rock" would Jesus build His church (v16, 18)? What did He promise about the church (v18) and about Peter (v19)? What did this mean? What else did He say (v20)?</p>	
<p>11. What unexpected or unusual things occur in this study? What was Jesus teaching about faith, grace, and the work He would leave behind?</p>	

Scripture to Remember

"And Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Matthew 16:16 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

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Life Group Questions—Wisdom for Relationships (James 3:13-18)

(Using questions from Sunday's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Think of some of the best pieces of advice you were ever given and share one with the group. How well have you followed it and how has it worked out?
2. Read James 1:5. Where does true wisdom originate? Discuss the difference between wisdom and knowledge, and how you acquire each.
3. Look at James 3:13-18. Describe what the world's "wisdom" looks like (v14-16). Why does it behave like this?
4. Talk about the meaning of purity/integrity. Why is it wise to have integrity?
5. What do the wisdom characteristics of being peaceable, gentle, reasonable and merciful have in common? Why does the wise person possess these traits?
6. What does it mean to be a person who is authentic—unwavering, without hypocrisy? Why is this difficult for most of us to achieve?
7. Share with the group some things you will do this week to work on becoming a person of wisdom.
8. Talk about anything else meaningful from the message if you have time.



THE LIFE OF JESUS

Studies in the Gospels

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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Stranger Than Fiction

Matthew 15-16; Mark 7-8

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Oftentimes the actual occurrences of everyday life are stranger than fiction. The events in view this week from the life of Jesus are like this. In the first section there are some unlikely blessings that take place. Jesus had begun a phase of ministry in non-Jewish regions, one of which was Tyre, north of Galilee. As He entered a house a Gentile woman found Him, asking Him to heal her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus didn’t answer at first, but as she persisted, He told her it wasn’t good to give the children’s (the Jews) bread to little dogs (Gentiles). Humbly she responded that even dogs got the crumbs from the table. Surprisingly, Jesus affirmed her answer by healing her daughter. Next, a deaf and dumb man was brought to Jesus. Strangely, though, He

healed him by putting His fingers in his ears, placing His spit on his tongue, and sighing deeply as He said, “Be opened.” His healing ministry continued there so that they all glorified God. While still in the Gentile region Jesus then felt compassion for four thousand followers who had gone without food for three days. Taking seven loaves He miraculously fed all of them. After these blessings Jesus then promised some unusual signs. The Pharisees and Sadducees, rival religious groups, united to test Jesus, asking for a sign. He declared that they were evil and adulterous for asking this, and told them that they would only be given the sign of Jonah, which referred to His resurrection. This would require belief before the sign occurred. He then warned the disciples against their leaven which was false



Jesus’ one solitary life changed the course of mankind for eternity.

teaching. He reinforced His claims by healing a blind man in stages, which was unusual. When He spat on his eyes he could see a little, and as He did it again he could see clearly. Finally, Jesus made an unexpected prophecy. He asked the disciples who they really thought He was and Peter said “the Christ, the Son of the Living God”. Jesus then promised to build His church on this truth, saying that even hell would not withstand it. Additionally, Peter was given authority to establish the church. These things were indeed stranger than fiction.

Study Questions for Matthew 15:21-16:20; Mk 7:24-8:30

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study%20questions))

<p>1. Read Matt 15:21-24. Where did Jesus go (v21)? Who did He encounter (v22) and what did she want (v22)? How did Jesus and the disciples respond at first (v23), and then what did He say (v24)? Why?</p>	
<p>2. Using Matt 15:25-28 what did the woman do next (v25) and what did Jesus say (v26)? How did she respond (v27) and what was His answer (v28)? What can we learn from this?</p>	
<p>3. From Mark 7:31-37 what region did Jesus go to next (v31) and who was healed (v32)? How did He do it (v32, 33, 34) and what happened (v35)? What did Jesus tell him (v36) and what resulted (v36-37)?</p>	

(Continued on Next Page)