

The Gospel According to Matthew

Faith, Food and Other Spiritual Practices

January 30, 2022

Matthew 14v34-15v28

34 When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. 35 After the people of that place recognized him, they sent word throughout the region and brought all who were sick to him, 36 and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, 2 "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders?"

For they do not wash their hands before they eat." 3 He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? 4 For God said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.' 5 But you say that whoever tells father or mother, 'Whatever support you might have had from me is given to God,' then that person need not honor the father. 6 So, for the sake of your tradition, you make void the word of God. 7 You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied rightly about you when he said:

8 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; 9 in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.'"

10 Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: 11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." 12 Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" 13 He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14 Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." 15 But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." 16 Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? 17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? 18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. 19 For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. 20 These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." 23 But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." 24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." 26 He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." 27 She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." 28 Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

How does this land, "People look at the outside, but God sees the heart"?

What if this story (Mt 14v34-15v28) is a little like that?

"We all want to become transformed people - not just folks with answers."
_ Gregory Boyle

Pharisees as *Debbie Downer*?

Jesus confronts the Pharisees

What are we to do with spiritual practices? Are they all bad? Is the Canaanite woman's lack of Jewish practices a new ideal?

Our "cultural river" versus their "cultural river".

Jesus, Joshua, and the Canaanite woman

What if this is not a problem to be solved but rather a tension to be managed?

Jesus, the Sabbath, Fasting, Prayer, Scripture, Synagogue and Temple Feasts

"It was not in Jesus' DNA to be violent, to punish, or to exclude anybody. But even with our unshakable goodness, there remain traces of this in our DNA. The gospel challenge, then, is to alter our DNA." _ Gregory Boyle

What is your plan for "altering your DNA" or becoming "good on the inside"?

Books: *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster; *The Whole Language* by Gregory Boyle; *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* by John Mark Comer

Podcasts: Fight Hustle End Hurry Podcast; Food, Faith and Fasting

Songs: Let Everything, Wait for You, New Wine, Ever Be, O Praise the Name

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