

## Grace Group Notes: Matthew 15:1 - 16:12

---

### 1. Review (5 mins)

**Q:** What are the ways in which we're tempted to judge other people spiritually?

### 2. Recap (20 mins)

**Summary:** The gospel which is offered to all people transforms people's hearts.

**Teaching Point:** Do not focus on outward spirituality, but repent and invite ALL people everywhere to do the same

**Q: [read Matt 15:1-20]**

- What are the Pharisees accusing the disciples of, and what does Jesus accuse the Pharisees of doing?

- The quote from Isaiah warns us against taking our own commandments (even the good ones) and teaching them as if they were written in God's word. Where are we tempted to do that, and what harm could that lead to?

**Q: [read Matt 15: 21-38]**

- Does the conversation between Jesus and the Canaanite woman make you feel uncomfortable? What are each of them really saying?

- What did the feeding of the 5,000 (Matt 14) mean to the Jews?

- How do the stories of the feeding of 4,000 Gentiles and the Canaanite woman help make sense of each other?

**Q: [read Matt 16: 1-12]**

- We've looked before at the sign of Jonah - what are the two aspects of the sign?

- Why is it important for God's people to be led by men who can 'interpret the signs of the times'?

### 3. Apply (15 mins)

- Not washing your hands can bring disease into your body from the outside. But spiritual disease comes from within and spreads. What, then, does spiritual hygiene look like for us?

- Are there people who we think are too spiritually unclean, too sinful for it to be worth sharing the gospel with? (If so, pray for opportunities during the next section)

- What does it look like in our private and public lives for us to understand that we're living in a time of repentance?

### 4. Pray (20 mins)