

The Gospel of Matthew #101

RELIGION VERSUS THE GOSPEL

Matthew 15:1-28

- 2 stories: 1. Jewish leaders (Pharisees) from Jerusalem
2. Canaanite woman from Tyre-Sidon (Gentile)

8 Contrasts to distinguish Jesus' Kingdom from Jewish religion
Distinguishes all human religion from the gospel.
(We all have gravitational pull toward religion)

At root is a radically different view of the **heart**

CONTRASTS:

I. Pride v Humility

Delegation comes from Jerusalem (v1) to straighten Jesus out
Accusation of superiors (v2)

Canaanite woman: shameless pleading of a beggar (v25)
She is ignored, rebuffed, refused. Still she pleads.
No pride: she cries out desperate

II. Clean v Unclean

Pharisees are clean (v1-2). Ritual purity a high priority.
The Canaanite woman is so unclean they would be defiled by
touching her!
Jesus reflects this distinction (v24-26)

But v10-11: genuine clean is not physical or ritual, but a matter
of the heart

III. What is seen v what is not seen

(the _____)

Pharisees: you see we wash to show we clean
But Jesus says v10-11, then v 17-20. You are filthy and
defiled, but do not even realize it.

IV. Works v Faith

Pharisees: what **we** do (v1-2)
Canaanite woman simply has faith in Jesus, her only hope.
That gains her access.
Naked helpless faith Jesus cannot refuse!

V. The Heart is basically _____ : guard it from evil v The Heart is basically _____ and needs to be transformed

Pharisees had multitudes of regulations about cleanness
This was symbolic of how they saw themselves
But v10-11 → 16-20

VI. Religion v _____

Religion is what I do to gain or maintain access to God
He owes me because I have followed His rules
Moralism.
Christians can revert to this daily

The Gospel is what Christ **has done for me.**

By grace. My *only* hope.
See this in the woman's pleading.
She never argues "Yes, but I..."
Only "Yes, but **You...**" 15:27: **You** are merciful.

VII. Rules v _____

Pharisees: keep rules and He must bless;
Jesus draws out the woman's faith in relationship
So with you

VIII. Ignorance of male Jewish leaders v Insight of female Canaanite nobody!

Gospel is for anybody who is poor in spirit
Jesus is accessible to YOU. Right now. You do not have to
DO anything to gain access to Him.
Come with your need. In **faith.**

The radical difference between religion and Gospel is the view of
the human heart. We will look at that next week.