



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

16 August 2020

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Matthew 15:10-28 (NIV)

¹⁰ Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand.

¹¹ What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."

¹² Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?"

¹³ He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots.

¹⁴ Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."

¹⁵ Peter said, "Explain the parable to us."

¹⁶ "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them.

¹⁷ "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body?"

¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them.

¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

²⁰ These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

The Faith of a Canaanite Woman



²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out,

"Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."

²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

²⁵ The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

²⁶ He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

²⁷ "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Matthew 15:10-28

Jesus begins this passage by spelling out what makes a person "unclean". For the Pharisees, this concept was of major importance. They were the ones who decided who was "clean" and allowed into the temple, and who was not.

Jesus made it clear that it wasn't what someone ate that made them "unclean". What made them unclean in God's eyes was what was in their heart, and the words which came out of their mouths.

Jesus' encounter with the Canaanite woman threw the question of who was "unclean" (and therefore deserving of Jesus' attention) into a completely different context.

At first Jesus ignored the woman. Was he being rude, and expressing the commonly-held Jewish prejudices of his day? Or did he feel internal conflict, knowing that he had been sent to the Jews, but not wanting to turn his back on this woman's needs?

The woman's persistence drew Jesus in, even though the disciples pleaded with Jesus to send her away.

Jesus was impressed by the faith of this woman - so impressed that he healed the woman's daughter.

As far as I know, the Bible mentions Jesus healing only two people without even seeing them, and both were Gentiles.

One was the Canaanite woman's daughter, and the other was the servant of a Roman centurion at Capernaum.

Maybe if we looked around, we may be surprised at who has the greatest faith in Jesus, and who Jesus would consider to be "clean". ~ Meg

Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalms 133

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32



"Depend on it. God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply. He is too wise a God to frustrate His purposes for lack of funds, and He can just as easily supply them ahead of time as afterwards, and He much prefers doing so."

~ Hudson Taylor

.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



IN OUR PRAYERS

- Peter Scorgie is due to have surgery on Tuesday 18th August, and Tina has surgery the following day. Beth's eye operation has been postponed. Please pray for each member of the Scorgie family.
- We give thanks that Alan Littlejohns' health is continuing to improve.
- We pray for all healthcare workers - in Australia, and throughout the world.
- We pray for people whose arthritic pain is worse during the cold weather.
- We pray for those in aged care facilities who have had little contact with others over the past several months.

Meg's Musings

A few days ago I bought some cherries at the supermarket. They are absolutely delicious, and a real treat in the middle of winter.

I thought about how those cherries arrived in Tamworth. God sent the rain and the sun. A farmer pruned, sprayed and tended the trees.

He employed pickers, sorters and packers, then the cherries were transported to an airport in the USA.

The cherries were then loaded, and flown to Australia.

The cherries were unloaded, sent to a warehouse, then put on a truck to be driven to Tamworth.

The cherries were then unpacked, and placed in a cool unit, ready for sale.

That's quite a supply chain.

For 2,000 years, Christians have been choosing to ensure that their Good News has been passed on - they have kept the "supply chain" going.

People have spoken to others, some have acted in ways which spread the message, and others have translated the bible, and written books about Christianity.

What's your part in the Christian "supply line" to ensure that people continue to come to know Christ?

Blessing from Meg



THE BAD NEWS:

There is no key to happiness.

THE GOOD NEWS:

It isn't locked.

PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Pastoral Care: **Meg Mangan 0466 337 005**

Elders: Margaret Crowell Ross Davidson Bruce Jarrett



The Garden

There once was a woman who longed to have a flower garden. Each year she would visit her neighbour, who had the most beautiful garden she had ever seen, and he would give her cuttings and seeds for her own garden.

But when she would return home, she would change her mind at the last minute saying, "but my neighbour's garden is so much lovelier than anything I could hope to grow. And he knows so much more about gardening—I could never hope to grow a garden half as lovely as that. Why should I even try?"

One day her neighbour stopped by her home and saw that she had not one flower growing anywhere around her house.

"I've provided you with so much", he said, and "yet you have done nothing at all with what I have given you!"

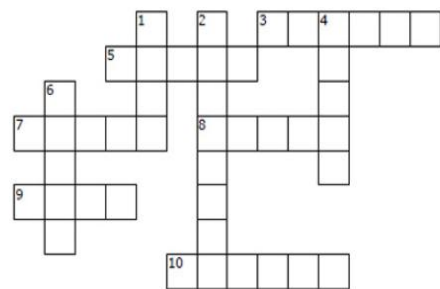
And so it is with each of us. The Lord gives us talents and expects us to develop them. We cannot judge our worth by comparing ourselves to others, but must bloom and grow the best we can with what we have been given.

~ from Sue

Never Give Up

Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." Matthew 15:28 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 15:21-28 (NIV)



ACROSS

3. To experience physical or mental pain
5. An adult female human being
7. The Son of God
8. An very large amount of something
9. Unable to be found
10. Small pieces of bread or cake

DOWN

1. Animals with four legs, commonly kept as pets, and sometimes used to guard things
2. A female child in relation to her parents
4. To have trust or confidence in something or someone
6. An evil spirit

28 August ~ Anna Davidson

31 August ~ Alan Littlejohns



.... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus