

**Overview:** This section of chapter 15 has three separate episodes. The first is an encounter with a Gentile woman of great faith in the region of Tyre and Sidon. In the second Jesus performs multiple healings along the Sea of Galilee. The third episode was a repeat miracle of feeding a huge multitude with an uneventful return west by boat to the region of Magadan.

**Read 15:21-28**

1. What do you know about the inhabitants of Tyre and Sidon? How did the Canaanite woman address Jesus three times in verses 22, 25, and 27? What is noteworthy about the other title she added in verse 22? What does that lead you to speculate about her?
2. In verse 23 Jesus did not answer the woman's pleas for help. What triggered the disciples' appeal to Jesus? What does the disciples' urgent request of Jesus tell you about them and about the woman?
3. In verse 24 Jesus finally responded to the woman asserting, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." What is your first impression of this interaction? How well did this dissuade the woman (25)? How do you interpret the woman's attitude by her posture and her simple three-word request? How would you compare it to Peter's request in 14:30?
4. Jesus surprisingly did not seem moved by her request and said, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." What did He mean by this statement? Why do you think He continued to resist her pleas?
5. How do you think the woman's witty reply in verse 27 affected Jesus' response (28)? What did Jesus laud before the disciples and any onlookers? How does Jesus' behavior in this encounter become clearer as you look beyond the one-on-one conversation?

**Read 15:29-31**

6. Jesus returned to the Sea of Galilee and walked up onto a mountain, where great crowds came to Him. Whom did they bring with them? What does that tell you about their faith?
7. In verse 31 it says the crowd "wondered" after witnessing the healing of the mute, crippled, lame and blind. What do you think was going on in their minds? What do all these healings reveal about Jesus' identity? (Review Isaiah 35:5-6).

**Read 15:32-39**

8. Jesus was moved by compassion to feed the 4,000, just as He was before when He fed the 5,000. To whom did He address His concern for the crowd? Why do you think He called this group to Him? What do you think Jesus' inward reaction was to their response?
9. What do you think was the purpose for the seven baskets of left over bread fragments? What was the lesson for the disciples? What is the lesson for us (see Ephesians 3:20)?