

Jesus and the Gentiles—Part 2
Matthew 15:29-38 (cf. Mark 7:31-37-8:1-9)

I. God's _____ Extends to Every Tribe, Tongue, People, and Nation (vs. 29-31)

- a. It has always been God's will that Christ's Church and Kingdom be DIVERSE (Rev. 5:9-10; cf. Gen. 12:3ff; Dan. 7:14; Isa. 49:6; Ps. 22:27; Gen. 22:18; Ps. 86:9; Isa. 9:2; 19:24-25ff; 42:1; 55:5; 60:3; Hosea 2:23; Mal. 1:11)
- b. Based on the grasses, Jesus and His disciples may have spent up to 6 months in the region of Tyre and Sidon in private teaching (cf. Matt. 14:19; 15:35)
- c. Eventually they first went north then east then south, possibly to avoid entanglements with Herod Antipas
- d. Decapolis was a group of 10 Gentile city-states located on the East side of the Sea of Galilee in modern day Jordan...just south of the Golan Heights (cf. Mark 7:31)
- e. After Mark reveals Jesus healed a deaf and dumb man, large crowds brought their ill and infirmed to Him (cf. Mark 7:31-37)
 - i. This was likely a fulfillment of Isa. 35:5-6 and proof that Jesus healed the Gentiles like the Jews.
- f. The Gentile crowd **marveled** = **thaumazō**, (θαυμάζω) = "be amazed, be in wonder, be astonished, be surprised" or "to be struck with awe"
- g. And **they glorified the God of Israel**
 - i. A title for God that proves these were predominantly Gentiles (cf. Matt 9:8; Mark 2:12; Luke 5:25–26; 7:16; 13:13; 18:43)
 - ii. Also, a stark comparison to the Jewish Religious Leaders! (cf. Matt. 12:22-24; Isa. 29:18-19; 35:4-6; Matt. 11:1-6; Mark 6:6)

II. God's _____ Extends to Every Tribe, Tongue, People, and Nation (vs. 32-28)

- a. Jesus felt **compassion for the people** = **splanchnizomai** (σπλαγχνίζομαι) = "feel compassion for, have pity on, have one's heart go out to someone" or "being moved in your inward parts" (cf. Matt. 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 18:27; 20:34; Mark 1:41; 6:34; 8:2; 9:22; Luke 7:13; 10:33; 15:20)
 - i. God's Heart is full of love and compassion (cf. Ex. 34:6-7; 33:21-23; Lam. 3:22; 2 Kings 13:23; 2 Chron. 36:13-15)
- b. The disciple's response could have been one of:
 - i. Spiritual blindness (cf. Matt. 8:26; 14:31; 16:8; 17:20)
 - ii. Racial Arrogance (cf. Ex. 16; Num. 11:4-9; 2 Kings 4:1-7, 42-44; Matt. 15:21-26; 25:31-46; Luke 9:54; 10:25-37)
 - iii. Reliance on Jesus
- c. Whatever motivated their response, Jesus took over and performed yet another incredible miracle:
 - i. The account of the feeding of the four thousand is not a mistake or duplication, PERIOD!
 - 1. There are too many distinct differences: location, number, timing, Jew vs. Gentile, the amount of leftovers, even the type of baskets they were collected in and Jesus Himself declares there are two separate miraculous feedings (cf. Matt. 16:9-10)
 - ii. The miracle occurs in Jesus' hands as He manufactured **the loaves and fish** out of thin air!
 - iii. He created enough fish to satisfy up to 20,000 people **four thousand men, besides women and children**
 - iv. He taught the disciples that they were to serve the Gentiles like the Jews **started giving them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people**
 - v. Even after being satisfied there were still **seven large baskets full**
 - 1. **kophinos** (κόφινος) = "basket used primarily for food or produce" (cf. Matt. 14:20; 16:9; Mark 6:43; 8:19; Luke 9:17; Jn 6:13)
 - 2. **spyris** (σπυρίς) = "large basket" (Matt. 16:10; Mark 8:8, 20; Acts 9:25)