

# Simply Jesus

## The Life and Ministry of God's Son

### Inductive: Lesson 10

#### Introduction

The religious leaders were becoming increasingly concerned about Jesus, seeing Him as a threat to their power and influence among the people. Several times in the gospels, we see the spiritual ruling body (Sanhedrin) sending a delegation to Jesus to question and discredit Him in the eyes of the people. Matthew (15:1–20) and Mark (7:1–23) write about one of these groups that traveled the eighty miles from Jerusalem to confront Jesus about why His disciples did not keep the traditional Jewish practices, such as ceremonial hand washing. The confrontation was between officials dressed in their fine robes, hurling condescending words at Jesus, who in turn was infuriated that their teachings hid the love, grace and mercy of God behind ceremonial hand-washing and external pot cleansing. Hurling accusations at Jesus about His disciples, He called them hypocrites for laying aside the Word of God to hold to the traditions of men.

From there Jesus traveled to Tyre and Sidon and around the Sea of Galilee, where He again healed the multitudes and fed another four thousand people, not only to meet their need, but to broaden the understanding and experience of the disciples still very much enrolled in the Lord's school of obedience. Mark draws our attention to a Gentile woman (a descendent of the Canaanites), who was considered an outcast by the society in which she lived. Jesus would heal her daughter in response to her persistent faith.

Next we come to a series of lessons where Jesus tells His disciples that although He is very compassionate and loving in nurturing their spiritual understanding to maturity, they must each come to a point where their learning is lived out in daily life. Jesus is never in a hurry to teach a lesson or illustration, but He looks for evidence that the lessons are not only being taught but caught and applied in practical ways. Why? Because there ultimately comes a time when each of Jesus' followers must make an informed decision—a deliberate choice to take up their cross and follow Him!

#### Did you know

The disciples' hope and expectation of their Messiah was unlike God's plan. The Jews had always been taught that He would come as a political ruler who would set the Jews free and restore Israel to its place of world prominence once again. They were looking for a political figure that had an agenda and power to dominate crowds. But the Jesus in their midst wasn't interested in the power of politics. He came to minister to individuals and address their personal needs. He didn't talk about a government takeover, He talked about a spiritual makeover; about heaven and hell; about spiritual blindness and that He was the True Light come into the world to show them the way to everlasting life!

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

## Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

<u>Teaching / Event</u>	<u>Scripture Text</u>	<u>Parallel Passages</u>
Jesus Teaches about Purity	<b>Mark 7:1–23</b>	Matthew 15:1–20
Jesus' Ministry Beyond Galilee:		
Healing Many: Gentile Woman's Daughter	<b>Matthew 15:21–31</b>	Mark 7:24–30
Feeding Four Thousand	Matthew 15:32–39	Mark 8:1–10
Jesus Resumes Ministry in Galilee:	Matthew 16	
Warning Against False Teaching	Matthew 16:5–12	Mark 8:11–21
Receiving Peter's Confession	<b>Matthew 16:13–20</b>	Mark 8:27–30; Luke 9:18–20
Predicting His Death and Resurrection	<b>Matthew 16:21–23</b>	Mark 8:31–33; Luke 9:21–22
Challenging His Disciples	<b>Matthew 16:24–27</b>	Mark 8:34–38; Luke 9:23–26

## First Impressions: Group Discussion

**Reflect** for a moment on the passages you have just read.

**Respond** by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

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## Heartbeat: Matthew 16:24-25 NKJV (Memory verse)

(Write it out once in the space below. **Practice it each time** you open your lesson.)

Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.'

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Mark 7:14–23

Jesus Teaches About Inner Purity

14 When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them,  
‘Hear Me, everyone, and understand.

15 There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which  
come out of him, those are the things that defile a man.

16 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!’

17 When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him  
concerning the parable.

18 So He said to them, ‘Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that  
whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him,

19 because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated,  
thus purifying all foods?’

20 And He said, ‘What comes out of a man, that defiles a man.

21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts,  
adulteries, fornications, murders,

22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye,  
blasphemy, pride, foolishness.

23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man.’

Matthew 15:21–28

### Jesus Heals the Gentile Woman's Daughter

21 Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, 'Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.'

23 But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, 'Send her away, for she cries out after us.'

24 But He answered and said, 'I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.'

25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Lord, help me!'

26 But He answered and said, 'It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.'

27 And she said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.'

28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, 'O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.' And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Matthew 16:13–20

### Receiving Peter's Confession of Faith

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?'

14 So they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'

15 He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'

16 Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'

17 Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.'

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church,

and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that  
He was Jesus the Christ.

#### Matthew 16:21–23                      Predicting His Death and Resurrection

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, 'Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!'

23 But He turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.'

#### Matthew 16:24–27                      Challenging His Disciples

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.'

(Scripture from the New King James Bible, © 1980 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.)

## Observation: Look!

Pray. Read the Bible passage several times, trying to get a big picture of what is going on.

Left Column (Facts): Following the writer in the order he tells the story, briefly describe who is involved, what is happening, when and where the events are taking place.

Right Column (Observations): Look closely to observe details. Some questions you may ask:

- What do you know about the people involved in the story? What questions does the story raise? What sources of conflict do you see? What does Jesus identify as true and important to life?
- Put yourself in the Biblical character's shoes. What were his ambitions? How did the character relate to others or to God? What problem did he think he faced? Did Jesus identify a different problem in his life? What did he discover about God? How did he respond?
- Are there any words that you are not familiar with? Look up the definition.
- Are there words or phrases that are repeated or emphasized? Why are they key?
- Identify comparisons, such as "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." What do you know about leaven (yeast)? Identify contrasts, such as "You have heard it said...but I say to you..."
- Extra: Record information you may find in Bible dictionaries, maps, handbooks, or encyclopedias. Understanding the culture/time in which Jesus lived will help you discover the meaning of the text.

Mark 7:14–23

Jesus Teaches About Purity

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

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Matthew 15:21–28 Jesus Heals the Gentile Woman’s Daughter

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

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Matthew 16:13–20 Receiving Peter’s Confession of Faith

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

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Matthew 16:21–23      Predicting His Death and Resurrection

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

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Matthew 16:24–27      Challenging His Disciples

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

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## Interpretation: What does it mean?

Pray. The more time you take to observe the passage, the more you will have a basis for understanding what God's Word means. Interpretation **always** seeks to answer the questions, "What was God saying to the original audience?" and then, "How does that same truth relate to life today?" Asking yourself questions will help you see the spiritual lesson in the text: What does this teach me is true about God? What does it teach me is true about mankind? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to the promise? Is there an example I should follow or avoid? A spiritual lesson is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to the heart of man. Stating the lesson in a sentence of 10 words or less will help you keep it simple and memorable.

**Application:** How does it apply to me? Pray. Practicing Biblical truth day-to-day is the only way to grow in Christ and reflect the glory of God. To apply the spiritual lesson you have learned from the text, you have to take deliberate action. Take the time to examine yourself, and ask: Does this spiritual lesson point out error in my thoughts about God? Does it point to error in my attitude or actions? How does this lesson relate to my home life, my work, my relationships, how I spend my time, etc? What change is required? What practical steps will I take to make that change? Write your application in the form of a question to help make it personal.

Mark 7:14–23

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 5:21–28

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 16:13–20

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 16:21–23

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 16:24–27

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

## Behold & Be Transformed

What did you see as you beheld God's Son?

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How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

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**Pause . . .** What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

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**Ponder . . .** How will you put it into practice?

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**Pray . . .** Write out your prayer and be specific.

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