

God of Compassion

Matthew 15:21-39

Getting Started

Tell about one of your best friends from another country or culture.

Digging In

1. **Read Matthew 15:21-22.** Describe the woman who came to Jesus.
2. What kind of relationship did the Jews have with the Canaanites?
3. What problem did the woman bring to Jesus?
4. Based on v. 22, who did the woman believe Jesus to be?
5. **Read Matt 15:23-24.** How did Jesus and the disciples initially respond to this woman's request?
6. **Read Matt 15:25-28.** Do you think Jesus was being harsh in v. 26? Why or why not?
7. How is the woman's persistence seen in these verses?
8. **Read Matt 15:29-31.** What kinds of needs were the people bringing to Jesus? How did he respond?
9. **Read Matt 15:32-39.** How else did Jesus demonstrate his compassion for the people's physical needs?
10. Comparing the Feeding of the 4000 with the Feeding of the 5000 (Matt 14:13-21), what are the similarities? What are the differences?
11. What do we learn about Jesus from Matt 15:21-39?



Getting Personal

- If God has compassion on all people, what does this imply about our attitude toward those of other races and religions?
- If God is concerned not just about people's spiritual needs, but also about their physical needs, what are the implications for us?
- How do you see these two concerns working together – concern for people's spiritual needs and physical needs?
- How can we at Shoestring demonstrate God's concern for the physical needs of those around us? Be specific. (Use the back if necessary.)