

Community Group Question Guide

Matthew 15:29-39 – Unexpected Gifts

29 *Departing from there, Jesus went along by the Sea of Galilee, and having gone up on the mountain, He was sitting there.*

30 *And large crowds came to Him, bringing with them those who were lame, crippled, blind, mute, and many others, and they laid them down at His feet; and He healed them.*

31 *So the crowd marveled as they saw the mute speaking, the crippled restored, and the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.*

32 *And Jesus called His disciples to Him, and said, "I feel compassion for the people, because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way."*

33 *The disciples said to Him, "Where would we get so many loaves in this desolate place to satisfy such a large crowd?"*

34 *And Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven, and a few small fish."*

35 *And He directed the people to sit down on the ground;*

36 *and He took the seven loaves and the fish; and giving thanks, He broke them and started giving them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.*

37 *And they all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, seven large baskets full.*

38 *And those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.*

39 *And sending away the crowds, Jesus got into the boat and came to the region of Magadan.*

ESV

- There are several allusions here to previous events – can you identify them? What do you think they mean?
- We know from Mark's gospel that Jesus is now deep in Gentile territory (Country of Gerasenes / Gadarenes / Decapolis). What do you make of this? What was Jesus' first recorded venture into this area?
- Why do you think such a great crowd would show up for a peasant Jewish teacher?
- What do you make of the disciples' response to Jesus' concern for the crowd?
- The quantity 7 is mentioned three times – any sense why?
- 12 Jewish men feeding 7 loaves to thousands of Gentiles. What does this teach them? Us?
- How does this text change your thinking and understanding?