

MATTHEW 15:21 THRU 16:28

1. What reason(s) did Jesus give, first to the disciples and then to the mother of a demon-possessed girl, for not responding (at first) to her pleas for help? (15:21-28)
2. What commendable quality(s) do you see in this Canaanite woman?
3. What types of physical impairment did Jesus heal (as recorded in 15:29-31)? What was the response of the multitude upon witnessing such supernatural power?
4. Does the question posed by the disciples in 15:33 seem odd to you, and if so, why?
5. How many people were physically filled by Jesus with seven loaves of bread and a few fish? How many leftovers were collected afterwards?
6. When the Pharisees and Sadducees asked Jesus to show them *“a sign from heaven”* (16:1-4), for what specific failure/inconsistency did Jesus criticize them?
7. *“No sign shall be given to [this generation] except the sign of the prophet Jonah,”* Jesus said. To what sign of His do you believe He was referring?
8. Later, Jesus warned His disciples of the *“leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees”* (16:5-12). Of what did they think He was speaking?
9. In rebuking the disciples (*“O you of little faith”*), Jesus reminded them of what two prior events? (Their witnessing these events should *not* have led them to think Jesus had been speaking about bread.)
10. So, of what was Jesus speaking, when He said, *“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees”*?

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11. Up to this point, what had some concluded as to Jesus' identity? (16:13ff)
12. When Jesus challenged His disciples, "*But who do you say that I am?*" what did Peter confess? Who did Jesus say had revealed this to him?
13. Jesus, in responding to Peter's confession, said, "*on this rock I will build My church.*" To what "*rock*" do you believe He referred?
14. What "*binding*" and "*loosing*" did Jesus tell Peter he would be doing? [Note: Later we will learn that it wouldn't be just Peter who'd be doing this (18:18).]
15. For the first time (in Matthew's account) Jesus plainly told His disciples about his impending suffering and death and resurrection (16:21-23). When Peter rebuked Jesus for speaking in such a manner, why do you think Jesus said, "*Get behind Me, Satan*"? In connection with that, why did Jesus say Peter was "*an offense*" to Him?
16. According to the Lord, what will become of the one who desires to save his own life? Of the one who loses his life for Jesus' sake? (16:24-28)
17. Based on Jesus' words in this section, what will a man or woman profit who operates a Shelby county business, owns a beautiful house with acreage, drives expensive vehicles, travels and vacations often, has millions of dollars stored up for retirement, enjoys good health to the age of one hundred and ten... but loses their own soul?

Based on Jesus' words, what will a person profit who enjoys none of the above... and loses his own soul?

What will a man profit/gain who denies himself, takes up his cross, and follows Jesus?

18. Some of those standing with Jesus (on that day) wouldn't die until what happened?