

# Lesson 19

The Ins and Outs of Christianity | [Matthew 15](#)

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## START MEETING

1. Have you ever been excluded or felt like an outsider before? Share a little about your experience.

## READ AND DISCUSS BIBLE

2. In the sermon, the historical context of the Pharisees was given. They drew lines so as to separate themselves from the defilement of the surrounding culture, and maintain a distinct identity from it. How can this end up detrimental?
3. (The Pharisees drew lines that deviated). Read Matthew 15:9. What are some yardsticks that Christians currently use that deviate from the yardstick demonstrated by the life of Jesus?
4. (The Pharisees drew lines that detracted). In Matthew 15:3 - 6, what does Jesus accuse the Pharisees of doing? Are there other ways where tradition detracts from true obedience to God?
5. Jesus talks about the human heart as the root issue in Matthew 15:16 - 20. From these few verses, and from the other verses below, explain the problem with our heart.

Matthew 5:27, 28

Jeremiah 17:9

Jeremiah 5:23 - 25

Romans 2:5

## MATTHEW: THE DISCIPLEMAKER MANUAL

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Sermon Series  
Bible Study

## PASSAGE FOCUS

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The Pharisees draws lines, separating the 'ins' and 'outs'. But Jesus points us to the sinfulness of our own hearts. Though we are 'out', its faith like the Canaanite woman that puts us in. Finally, Jesus redraws lines, to include all who are hungry for Him.

## STUDY GUIDE

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### LISTEN

Listen to this passage's sermon before you begin the study. If you missed it, you can watch the recording on the CPC Website or Youtube Channel.

### REFLECT

Take some time to read through the passage and reflect on the questions.

### SHARE

Answer the questions and share with your Life Group.

6. Religiosity may lead to behavioural improvements, but also leads to pride and hypocrisy. How does genuine Christian faith prevent that? Speak from your own experience, or from scripture.
7. What is commendable about the Canaanite woman's example of faith? What can we learn from her?
8. Have there been moments where God was 'silent', and you had to be persistent in your faith? What did you learn through that process?
9. Jesus feeds a large crowd in Gentile territory in Matthew 15 (c.f. Mark 7:31, 8:1). What similarities and differences can you find between the feeding of the 5000 in Matthew 14 and the feeding of the 4000 in Matthew

### **Close meeting**

- Examine your life. Have there been areas where you have tendencies like the Pharisees? Where you have draw lines that deviate, detract and deflect?
- Jesus redraws our lines. Are there ways (personally or as an LG) that Jesus is prompting you to reach out, and include people in the wide world?

**Optional reading:** Scripture uses the law in various ways, and for various purposes. Sometimes, this leads to confusion when we mix up one way for another. Calvin's threefold use of the law provides a useful framework for us, read more below.

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/threefold-use-law>