

Dear Bible Study Friends,

This week is a special week as we celebrate the life and faith of our long-time leader, Carol Lance. We will be spending the majority of our time together praising and thanking God for His faithfulness to us in and through her. We're excited to show our love and support of Carol and Tom together with you this week.

With this special time, we will not be having a normal lesson for Matthew 15. Our hope and prayer is that you will still read, study and reflect on how God might change you through His Word this week. Jesus has a lot to teach us in this short chapter. We've prepared a few questions for your personal reflection below and if you have the chance, get together with your ladies and discuss what God is speaking to you through Matthew 15.

As always, we love you and are praying that God will be gracious to you, so that His glory can be made known through you this week. Let's celebrate big!

A Look at Matthew 15 – Please read Matthew 15 and then walk through the outline and questions for your personal growth.

- I. Jesus calls the pharisees hypocrites. Their hearts are far from God and their teachings are from man. (Matthew 15:1-9)
 - a. Where might my heart be far from God?
 - b. What do I hold to or preach that is man-made tradition rather than Biblical truth?
- II. Jesus wants the disciples to understand and teaches about the matters of the heart. (Matthew 15:10-20)
 - a. What has come out of your mouth this week? How does it reflect your heart?
- III. Jesus withdraws into Gentile (non-Jewish) regions, finds faithful hearts and becomes Healer and Provider for the Gentiles. This is the first time we see His ministry expand to ALL people in Matthew. (Matthew 15:21-39)
 - a. The Canaanite woman's faith in Jesus brought healing and Kingdom blessing. What can we learn from her faith? What is the posture of your heart and mind before Jesus?
 - b. What do we learn about Jesus' compassion for all people in these last verses?