The King's Way – Study 2 Matthew 15:1-16:12 – The King for All

 Think about two broad groups of people – the religious and the non-religious. Which group do you think faces the more significant obstacles in coming to faith in Jesus? Which group might find it easier to come to faith in Christ? Why?

Read Matthew 15:1-20.

2. What problem do these religious leaders have with Jesus and his disciples?

3. How would you sum up Jesus' initial response to their objection (verses 3-9)?

4. In what ways might we also be in danger of what Jesus is condemning here?

5. How does Jesus go on to use this occasion as an opportunity to teach the crowd?

Read Matthew 16:1-12.

6. What approach to Jesus does this group of religious leaders take?

- 7. What is Jesus' warning to ...
 - i) The Pharisees and Sadducees?
 - ii) His disciples?

8. Why might we also need to heed Jesus' warnings?

- 9. In between these two encounters with the religious leaders, Jesus provides for a surprising group of people. For each, reflect on what we discover about:(a) Jesus; and (b) trusting and following Jesus?
 - i) The Canaanite woman (15:21-28)

ii) The non-Jewish crowd healed (15:29-31)

iii) The non-Jewish crowd fed (15:32-39; cf Mark 7:31)

10. What particularly stands out to you about Jesus from today's section of Matthew's Gospel?

11. In what ways has today's section of Matthew's Gospel confirmed, clarified, or challenged your understanding of what it means to trust and follow Jesus?