

Dr. Craig Keener, Matthew, Session 13

Matthew 14-16

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Keener, Matthew, Session 13, Matthew 14-16, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Craig Keener's lecture analyzes Matthew chapters 14-16, focusing on several key events. **The miracle of Jesus walking on water** is examined, emphasizing its portrayal of Jesus' divinity and its impact on the disciples' faith. **Jesus' confrontation with the Pharisees** over tradition versus scripture highlights the importance of biblical principles over rigid adherence to rules. **The encounter with the Canaanite woman** showcases Jesus' compassion and challenges conventional expectations of faith. Finally, **Peter's confession of Jesus as Messiah** and the subsequent discussion on discipleship underscore the cost and commitment required of following Christ.

2. 20 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Keener, Matthews, Session 13 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Gospels – Acts → Matthew).



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3. Briefing Document

Briefing Doc: Themes and Key Ideas from Matthew 14-16 (Dr. Craig Keener)

This briefing document summarizes the key themes and ideas from Dr. Craig Keener's lecture on Matthew 14-16, highlighting important facts and incorporating relevant quotes.

Main Themes:

- **Jesus' Divine Identity:** The narrative of Jesus walking on water reinforces his divinity. Keener emphasizes the intentional use of Old Testament language and the divine name "I am" in this context.
- **Scripture Over Tradition:** Jesus challenges the Pharisees for prioritizing tradition over the principles of Scripture, especially concerning honoring parents and neglecting their needs.
- **True Purity and Defilement:** Jesus clarifies that defilement originates from the heart, not from what enters the mouth, emphasizing inner purity over ritualistic cleanliness.
- **Faith and Persistence:** The Canaanite woman's faith, despite Jesus' initial obstacle, and her persistent appeal are commended. Keener highlights the importance of unwavering faith in seeking Jesus' help.
- **Cost of Discipleship:** Following Jesus requires self-denial, even unto death. Keener emphasizes that prioritizing eternity over temporal concerns leads to a wise and impactful life.

Key Ideas and Facts:

Matthew 14:

- Jesus walking on water echoes Yahweh's actions in the Old Testament, solidifying the portrayal of Jesus as divine.
- *"But the language that's used here of Jesus treading upon the waters, especially in Mark 6:48, where he was about to pass by. In Job 9:8, it speaks of Yahweh treading on the sea."*
- Peter's attempt to walk on water demonstrates the need for faith and reliance on God's power to perform miracles.

- Keener shares personal anecdotes of individuals who experienced walking on water in the context of missions, emphasizing God's miraculous intervention.

Matthew 15:

- The conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees highlights the danger of elevating tradition over scriptural principles.
- *"Why do you ignore the principles of Scripture to uphold tradition? Hey, this one isn't even specified in Scripture."*
- Jesus criticizes those who exploit religious loopholes to avoid responsibility towards their parents, emphasizing practical application of faith.
- *"They'll say, well, I have to pay my tithe no matter what, even if that means somebody in need goes unfed. Well, what was the purpose of the tithe biblically?"*
- Keener warns against modern-day tendencies to prioritize church traditions, cultural norms, or personal experiences over scriptural authority.
- Jesus' encounter with the Canaanite woman showcases the power of persistent faith and foreshadows God's love extending to all people.
- *"He presents an obstacle to her faith. She has to humble herself to get past this obstacle. And she ends up being commended for her faith."*
- The feeding of the 4,000 parallels the feeding of the 5,000, demonstrating Jesus' abundant provision and extending his reach beyond the Jewish community.

Matthew 16:

- Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for demanding signs despite witnessing his miracles, highlighting their spiritual blindness.
- Keener interprets the "leaven of the Pharisees" as a warning against their hypocritical teachings and corrupting influence.
- Peter's confession of Jesus as the Messiah establishes the foundation of the Church on this fundamental truth.
- *"Peter's role as proclaimer of Jesus as Christ is the sense in which he's the rock, he's the foundation, because he's the one who's confessing that Jesus is the Christ, and the church is built on his role as confessor."*

- Jesus' statement that "the gates of Hades will not prevail against the church" assures the ultimate victory of the Church despite persecution and martyrdom.
- Jesus rebukes Peter for rejecting the concept of a suffering Messiah, emphasizing the cost of discipleship and the centrality of the cross.
- *"Peter, this is Satan speaking through you. And it prepares for 27 verses 40 and 43 when they're saying, if you're God's son, come down from the cross. Let God save you."*
- Keener encourages embracing the eternal perspective and living a life that counts for eternity, serving others and sharing the Gospel.
- *"If we live every moment of this life in light of eternity, we will live our lives wisely. We will make our lives count in ways that matter forever."*

Conclusion:

Dr. Keener's lecture offers a comprehensive exploration of Jesus' divine identity, the importance of prioritizing Scripture, the true meaning of purity, the power of persistent faith, and the cost and rewards of discipleship. The message ultimately challenges readers to live in light of eternity, serving others and boldly proclaiming the Gospel.

4. Matthew Study Guide: Session 13, Matthew 14-16

Matthew 14-16 Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What Old Testament imagery does Matthew use to portray Jesus' divinity in the walking on water episode?
2. Why did Peter begin to sink after initially walking on water?
3. What criticism do the Pharisees level against Jesus in Matthew 15?
4. How does Jesus respond to the Pharisees' criticism about hand washing?
5. What example does Jesus use to illustrate the Pharisees' hypocrisy regarding honoring parents?
6. What is the significance of Jesus' teaching on purity and impurity in light of his encounter with the Canaanite woman?
7. How does the Canaanite woman overcome the obstacle Jesus presents to her faith?
8. What is the significance of the number of baskets left over after the feeding of the 4,000?
9. What does the "leaven of the Pharisees" represent?
10. Why does Jesus rebuke Peter, calling him "Satan," after Peter confesses Jesus as the Messiah?

Answer Key

1. Matthew uses imagery from Job 9, where Yahweh is described as "treading on the sea" and "passing by." This language, also found in Exodus 33:19, connects Jesus' action to the divine power of Yahweh.
2. Peter began to sink because he took his eyes off Jesus and focused on the wind and waves, allowing fear to overtake his faith. This highlights the importance of unwavering trust in Jesus' power.

3. The Pharisees criticize Jesus for not enforcing the tradition of ritual hand washing among his disciples before they eat. This reflects their prioritization of tradition over scriptural principles.
4. Jesus counters by questioning why the Pharisees prioritize tradition over scriptural principles, specifically highlighting their neglect of honoring parents by exploiting a religious loophole.
5. Jesus points out that some people dedicate money to the temple that should be used to support their aging parents, highlighting how they twist religious devotion to neglect their responsibilities outlined in Scripture.
6. The discussion of purity and impurity sets the stage for Jesus' encounter with the Canaanite woman, who was considered ritually impure by the Jewish people. This encounter challenges traditional notions of purity and demonstrates Jesus' openness to all people.
7. The Canaanite woman demonstrates humility and persistent faith by comparing herself to a dog, acknowledging her position outside the Jewish covenant, yet believing that even a crumb of Jesus' power could heal her daughter.
8. The seven baskets left over after feeding the 4,000, like the twelve baskets after feeding the 5,000, symbolize the abundance and overflowing nature of God's provision, extending even to those outside the Jewish community.
9. The "leaven of the Pharisees" represents their hypocrisy, legalism, and false teachings that can corrupt and distort true faith, warning the disciples to be discerning and prioritize the teachings of Jesus.
10. Jesus rebukes Peter because Peter rejects the idea of a suffering Messiah, revealing a focus on worldly power and glory rather than God's plan of salvation through the cross. This highlights the importance of understanding the true nature of Jesus' mission.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the significance of the walking on water episode in Matthew 14, focusing on its theological implications and what it reveals about Jesus' nature and power.
2. Compare and contrast Jesus' interactions with the Pharisees and the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15. What do these encounters reveal about Jesus' attitude toward tradition, authority, and faith?
3. Explore the significance of Jesus' teaching on the "leaven of the Pharisees" in Matthew 16. What warnings does Jesus offer his disciples and how are these warnings relevant for Christians today?
4. Analyze the meaning of Peter's confession of Jesus as the Messiah in Matthew 16. Why is this confession significant and what does it reveal about Peter's understanding of Jesus' identity?
5. Discuss the theme of discipleship in Matthew 16, focusing on the cost and challenges involved in following Jesus. How does Jesus' teaching challenge conventional expectations of leadership and success?

Glossary of Key Terms

Canaanite: A person from Canaan, an ancient region encompassing modern-day Israel, Lebanon, and parts of Syria and Jordan. In the context of the Gospel, Canaanites represent those outside the Jewish covenant.

Diaspora: The dispersion of the Jewish people outside of their ancestral homeland, particularly after the Babylonian exile.

Ekklesia: The Greek word for "assembly" or "gathering," used in the New Testament to refer to the Christian church.

Gentile: A person who is not Jewish.

Hades: In Greek mythology, the underworld and the realm of the dead.

Kosher: Food prepared according to Jewish dietary laws.

Leaven: A substance, typically yeast, used to make dough rise. Metaphorically, it represents the pervasive influence of teachings or ideas.

Messiah: The Hebrew word for "anointed one," referring to the expected king and deliverer of the Jewish people.

Pharisees: A prominent Jewish sect known for their strict observance of the Law of Moses and their emphasis on oral traditions.

Ritual Purity: A state of ceremonial cleanliness according to Jewish law, often involving specific washing practices and avoidance of certain substances or activities.

Sadducees: A Jewish sect composed primarily of priests and wealthy elites, known for their rejection of oral traditions and their focus on the written Torah.

Sanctuary: A holy place dedicated to worship, often referring to the Temple in Jerusalem.

Sheol: The Hebrew word for the realm of the dead, often depicted as a place of shadowy existence.

Synagogue: A Jewish place of worship and study.

Torah: The first five books of the Hebrew Bible, also known as the Law of Moses.

Tradition: Beliefs, customs, and practices passed down through generations, often holding religious or cultural significance.

Transfiguration: The event where Jesus' appearance was gloriously transformed on a mountaintop in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

Vice List: A literary device listing negative qualities or immoral behaviors, commonly used in ancient rhetoric and moral teachings.

5. FAQs on Keener, Matthew, Session 13, Matthew 14-16, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ: Matthew 14-16

1. What is the significance of Jesus walking on water in Matthew 14?

Jesus walking on water is a powerful display of his divinity. Matthew draws parallels to Old Testament passages where Yahweh is described as "treading on the sea" and "passing by." Additionally, Jesus' use of "I am" echoes the divine name in the Old Testament, further emphasizing his divine nature. This miracle underscores Jesus' power over nature and reinforces his authority as the Son of God.

2. How does the story of Peter walking on water challenge our faith?

Peter's initial faith in stepping out of the boat is commendable, but his fear and subsequent sinking highlights the importance of unwavering trust in Jesus. The story challenges us to examine our own faith, asking if we focus on the "wind and waves" of life's challenges or if we maintain our focus on Jesus, trusting him to uphold us even in difficult circumstances.

3. Why does Jesus criticize the Pharisees for prioritizing tradition over Scripture in Matthew 15?

Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for upholding traditions that contradict the principles of Scripture. He emphasizes honoring parents as commanded in the Torah, but the Pharisees exploited a loophole to prioritize religious donations over supporting their elderly parents. This hypocrisy demonstrates how misplaced priorities can lead to neglecting genuine biblical principles and the needs of others.

4. What is the meaning of Jesus' statement, "It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the heart" (Matthew 15:11)?

Jesus challenges the Pharisees' focus on external rituals like hand washing. He emphasizes that true purity stems from the heart. Evil thoughts, intentions, and actions defile a person, not what they consume physically. This statement shifts the focus from external religious practices to the inner state of a person's heart and its alignment with God's will.

5. What can we learn from the faith of the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15:21-28?

The Canaanite woman's persistent faith, even when faced with obstacles presented by Jesus, serves as an example for us. Her humility and determination to receive even a "crumb" of Jesus' power highlights the importance of unwavering faith, even when facing rejection or testing. Her story teaches us that persistent, humble faith can overcome barriers and receive God's blessings.

6. How does Peter's confession of Jesus as the Messiah in Matthew 16:13-20 lay the foundation for the church?

Peter's declaration of Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the living God, is the foundational confession of the Christian faith. Jesus affirms Peter as the "rock" upon which he will build his church. This refers not to Peter as an individual but to his role in proclaiming Christ. The church is built on the confession of Jesus' true identity and the faithful proclamation of this truth.

7. Why does Jesus rebuke Peter as "Satan" after Peter objects to Jesus' prediction of his suffering in Matthew 16:21-23?

Peter's rejection of Jesus' suffering reflects a worldly understanding of power and glory, contrary to God's plan. Jesus rebukes this as satanic because it tempts him to abandon his mission of sacrificial death for humanity's salvation. This highlights the dangers of prioritizing human desires over God's will and the importance of accepting the path of suffering as part of faithful discipleship.

8. What is the significance of the transfiguration in Matthew 17 and how does it relate to the themes of suffering and glory?

The transfiguration offers a glimpse of Jesus' divine glory, confirming his identity as the Son of God. This event follows Jesus' prediction of his suffering and serves to strengthen the disciples' faith in the face of the coming trials. It highlights the paradoxical nature of Jesus' mission, where suffering precedes glory, and encourages believers to trust in God's ultimate plan even amidst hardship.