

## Supporting Notes & Questions

Week beginning Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

*Prepared by Rev. Ken Sykes*

### Matthew Chapter 15

Religious purity/Hypocrisy. Do we have rules and regulations (with clauses/loopholes) before we can worship?

Is our heart the problem or 'dirty hands'?

Solve that and true worship becomes normal. How?

Romans 1:16. Salvation is for Jews and gentiles – fortunately for us.

Why does Matthew record 2 similar events – feeding 5000 and 4000?

### Chapter 16

A difficult and challenging chapter.

Who do you think Jesus is? (Mt 3:17 & 8:29)

*Note* Gentiles believe, Jews doubt!

Does what we say reflect what is in our hearts & heads or what is expected of us?

Where does Peter's answer come from?

The Good News is the key. We give it away. Is a cross comfortable?

Friends accept it or throw it away. What if we have changed its shape?

**Three views have been held on the interpretation of this passage.**

- 1) That Christ himself is the Rock on which the Church should be built.
- 2) That Peter's confession of Jesus Christ as Son of God, or God incarnate, is the Rock.
- 3) That Peter is the rock.

### Chapter 17

From 16:21 Jesus approaching death dominates His teaching.

Transfiguration = metamorphosis. Heb 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory

Moses (law) Elijah (Prophet). What is God's message?

Why can't the disciples heal the boy? (Mt 10:1,8)

The issue with faith is not the quantity, but where you place it – in a big God.

### Chapter 18 - *The Characteristics of Jesus' New Community.*

Greatness—children have no status cf Mt 5:1-12 poor meek hungry thirsty - see Phil 2:1-11; Ez 34.

What does no status mean in practice for us?

vv 8,9 Is a Hebraism (hyperbole) So what does Jesus really mean?

What does 'straying' involve? How do we go about restoring someone who is 'straying'? Don't forget Amazing Grace, nor the pending judgement. So forgive.... but how?

### Chapter 19 - *Jesus moves South to His death.*

Thorny question re divorce – God's plan for marriage, Gen 2, lifelong exclusive heterosexual.

Any reason why alternatives, including divorce, should be avoided? If so how?

What have the disciples failed to learn about the Kingdom of heaven?

What's the lesson being taught here (Mt 6:24). Where does our heart lie in reality?

To tie vv13-20 together - Who can be saved and how?

What are the implications for those of us comfortably off?