

For the Love of an Imperative Verb Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A, RCL

¹⁰Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “**Listen** [ἀκούετε, **akouéte**] and **understand** [συνίετε, **syniéte**]; ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴**Let** them **alone** [ἄφετε, **áphete**]; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵But Peter said to him, “**Explain** [φράσον, **phráson**] this parable to us.” ¹⁶Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²**Just then** [ἰδοὺ, **idou**] a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “**Have mercy** [ἐλέησόν, **eléesón**] on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “**Send** her **away** [ἀπόλυσον, **apólyson**], for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, **help** [βοήθει, **boēthei**] me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! **Let it be done** [γενηθήτω, **genēthētō**] for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly. [NRSV89]

15:10

ἀκούετε, **akouéte**; *vb*: *pres act imperative 2nd pers pl* from ἀκούω:

translations: **listen** [NRSV89, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NRSVue; Albright & Mann], also **hear** [ESV, NAB, NKJV; Filson (vs. 9)], **oíd** [IAdNT]

συνίετε, **syniéte**; *vb*: *pres act imperative 2nd pers pl* from συνίημι:

translations: **understand** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Albright & Mann, Filson], also **entended** [IAdNT]

15:14

ἄφετε, **áphete**; *vb: 2nd aor act imperative 2nd pers pl* from ἀφίημι:

translations: **let . . . alone** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NKJV, NRSVue], also **leave** [NGEINT, NIV11, NJB; Filson], **let . . . be** [Albright & Mann], **dejad** [IAdNT]

Levine & Brettler: “Matthew warns against following Pharisaic rather than church teachers, but see 23:2f.” [JANT, p. 39.]

15:15

φράσον, **phráson**; *vb: aor act imperative 2nd pers sg* from φράζω:

translations: **explain** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Albright & Mann, Filson], also **explica** [IAdNT]

Levine & Brettler: “The disciples by now should not require explanations (13:16).” [JANT, p. 39.]

15:22

ἰδοῦ, **idoû**; *vb: 2nd aor mid imperative 2nd pers sg* from ὁράω:

translations: **just then** [NRSV89, NRSVue], also **behold** [ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NKJV; Filson], **suddenly** [NJB], **he aqui** [IAdNT]; not translated in NIV11 or Albright & Mann

ἐλέησον, **eléēsón**; *vb: aor act imperative 2nd pers sg*

translations: **have mercy** [NRSV89, ESV, NGEINT, NIV11, NKJV, NRSVue; Filson], also **have pity** [NAB], **take pity** [NJB; Albright & Mann], **ten compasión** [IAdNT]

15:23

ἀπόλυσον, **apólyson**; *vb: aor act imperative 2nd pers sg* from ἀπολύω:

translations: **send . . . away** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NIV11, NKJV, NRSVue; Albright & Mann], **send away** [NGEINT], also **dismiss** [Filson], **despide** [IAdNT]; not translated in NJB

Levine & Brettler: The Greek “can alternatively mean ‘loose her’, *i.e.*, perform the exorcism.” [JANT, p. 40.]

15:25

βοήθει, **boēthei**; *vb: pres act imperative 2nd pers sg* from βοηθέω:

translations: **help** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Albright & Mann, Filson], also **ayuda** [IAdNT]

Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28, continued

15:28

γενηθήτω, **genēthētō**; *vb: aor pass imperative 3rd pers sg* from γίνομαι:

translations: **let . . . be done** [NRSV89, NAB, NGEINT, NKJV, NRSVue; Filson], **let it be** [Albright & Mann], **be it done** [ESV], also **is granted** [NIV11], **let . . . be granted** [NJB], **que suceda** [IAdNT]

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