

**Title:** A Desperate Woman's Faith

**Passage:** Mark 7:24-30

**Passages:**

Mark 7:24-30

And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

Matthew 15:21-28

And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

**Introduction**

Jesus commended few people for their great faith - both not Jewish:

- Canaanite woman
- Centurion

Who is Jesus and why He came?

- Healings were pictures of His grace
- Gospel was for all (Jews and Gentiles)

John 20:30-31

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

- Life through Jesus. What kind? Eternal.

What is eternal life?

John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

- Eternal life is immediate through the rich *present* loving relationship with God

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- I now live in the flesh
- I live by faith in the Son of God

### Desperation of woman

- The desperate cry of a parent for a child is deep and critical and heartfelt.

### Overview

The Lord's retreat

Woman's request

The Lord's reply

Woman's response

## EXPOSITION

### I. The Lord's Retreat

#### Mark 7:24a

*And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon.*

- Jesus public ministry had been occurring for a year but people had been rejecting Him.
- See Mark 3 (own family), religious establishment of that day, King Herod

#### John 1:11

He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

#### Region of Tyre

- Jesus left Galilee (Jews) to Tyre
- Tyre and Sidon: inhabited by pagan Gentiles
- Long history of opposition to Israel (Ezekiel, Zechariah - prophecies against it; Queen Jezebel)
- In turn, Jews hated Gentiles (see: Jonah's flight away from Nineveh not wanting them to hear even message of repentance)
- Why Jesus go there?
  - Reflected His heart for the nations. (not just Israel)
  - His mission (and ours) are not limited to the "clean" people

#### Mark 7:24b

*And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden.*

- How did people outside of Jerusalem hear of Jesus?

#### Mark 3:8

and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him.

### II. The Woman's Request

#### Mark 7:25-26

*But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophoenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.*

## Woman

- an outsider (Gentile, a Syrophoenician - Phoenicians in Syria), a pagan by birth
  - She had no religious grounds to approach a Jewish leader without invitation
- Immediately: her response was quick once heard of Jesus in area
- Begged: she kept on calling out/begging.
  - She was desperate
  - She abandoned her pagan practices, left impotent idols

## Disciples response:

- Matthew passage: “And his disciples came and begged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she is crying out after us.’”

## Woman’s cry:

- Matthew passage: “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.”
  - O Lord, Son of David: she knew of Jesus’ true, divine identity

## III. The Lord’s reply

### Mark 7:27

*And he said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.”*

- Parable of truth

## Let the children be fed first

- God supernaturally gave the promise of a son through faith (Abraham well beyond years of child bearing was given a promise of a son by which Abraham had faith in God)
- Through the lineage, God’s plan of redemption and salvation.
- Prophecy of Messiah, the Anointed One, would come out of Israel

## God’s heart is clear for the nations (Israel and beyond)

- “First” = not one of importance but of sequence

### Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

### Acts 1:6-8

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

### Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

#### Dogs

- word references to a household puppy (not derogatory),
- Compare: a different word exists that references unwanted street scavenger dogs

#### IV. Woman's response

Mark 7:28

*But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."*

#### Woman's faith

- Humble: Yes, Lord = recognized Jesus lordship, aware of her own lowly state of pagan context
- Penitent: repentant of abandon false gods and turning to Jesus
- Persistent: continued to seek Jesus even through disciples opposition
- In His Character: "Son of David"
  - Grounded in God's character - His goodness, mercy, and power

#### V. Jesus' Reward

Mark 7:29-30

*And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.*

Matthew 15:28

*Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.*

- Jesus granted reward to the woman's persistent faith in Him.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

- God rewards faith in Him, those who choose to seek Him.

Proverbs 18:10, 15

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe...An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

#### Daughter's healing

- was miraculous
- But the primary purpose of this account was to point to Jesus: powerful and compassionate.

#### Application

If not a follower of Jesus:

- Believe
  - Not intellectually

- From the heart, abandoning false idols and instead placing trust in Jesus
- Come
  - Act upon the truth and come to Jesus
  - Come as you are, in humility
- Pray
  - Turn to God: be a picture of Him, proclaim Him

#### Mark 10:26-27

And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.”

If a follower of Jesus:

- pray to God, pray with others

#### Ecclesiastes 4:9

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.

#### Ecclesiastes 4:12

And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

- minister to the lost, those “unclean” or different than you.

#### Romans 10:14-15

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”