

A Woman's Great Faith

Matthew 15:21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of **Tyre and Sidon.** 22 And, behold, a

woman of Canaan came out of the same

coasts, and cried unto him, saying, **Have mercy**

on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my

daughter is grievously vexed with a

devil. 23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples

came and besought him, saying, **Send her away;** for

she crieth after us. 24 But he answered and said, **I am**

not sent but unto the lost

sheep of the house of Israel.

25 Then **came she and worshipped him,**

saying, **Lord, help me.** 26 But he answered

and said, **It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.**

27 And she said, **Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.** 28 Then Jesus answered and said unto

her, O woman, **great is thy faith:** be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

- The two people with great faith mentioned in the gospels were both gentiles
- The roman centurion [Matthew 8:10](#) When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.
- And this lady 28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, **great is thy faith:** be it unto thee even as

thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

- Both are Gentiles. There is a message here. God is showing that the Gentiles will believe. That the gospel is for more than just the Jewish nation
- Isn't it amazing and interesting that the two great examples of great faith in the gospels were a gentile man and woman
- This is a foreshadowing of the church of Jesus Christ which will consist of both Jews and Gentiles that have put their faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ

1. The gospel for the entire world [21](#) Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of **Tyre and Sidon.** [22](#)

And, behold, a **woman of Canaan**

came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying,

Have mercy on me, O Lord,

thou Son of David; my daughter is

grievously vexed with a devil.

- a. This story takes place outside of Jewish territory. Jesus has gone to a Gentile area
- b. Surely He will be free to rest and relax here, no Jewish person will want to follow him into this land of dirty people
- c. Not only has Jesus shown us that no foods are unclean, foods are not the problem He now shows us that people are not unclean
- d. He has gone to an area of the world where the Jews detested the people and would never help them
- e. It is easy to get consumed with your own life and ministry.
- f. It is hard to see past where you live, your people, your needs. It is hard to think of others
- g. Can I remind you that she is a Canaanite, a bitter enemy, a despised people, people who had worshipped other

gods **22** And, behold, a **woman of Canaan** came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, **Have mercy on**

me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

- i. Her people had worshipped Baal
- ii. They had fought against God's people in every way possible
- iii. It must have taken a major step for her to leave all she knew to go and seek help else where
- iv. Do you remember Naaman? [II Kings 5](#)
 - 1.He had leprosy
 - 2.The young maid sent him to Elisha
 - 3.His pride said to not do things in Israel like he was told
 - 4.The little girl reminded him to not be so arrogant
- v.Do you let your pride stand in the way of getting right with God?
 - 1.Are you embarrassed to say that you have sinned?
 - 2.Are you trying to avoid humbling yourself in front of others?

3. Are you thinking that you are good enough to be ok without needing God or someone who died on a cross?

2. Things to notice about the woman

- a. She loved her child **22** And, behold, a **woman of Canaan** came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, **Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.**

- i. She was not heartless
- ii. She was not willing to sit by and let disease take her child without a fight
- iii. She is willing to humble herself to take care of her child
- iv. Her love made her willing to endure whatever embarrassment and humiliation she might receive at the hands of Jesus and the disciples

v. Her love wouldn't let her give up

b. She had faith **22** And, behold, a **woman of**

Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried

unto him, saying, **Have mercy on**

me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my

daughter is grievously vexed with a

devil.

i. She had the faith to seek out Jesus

ii. It appears that her faith was fairly weak when she started

iii. She referred to Jesus at first with His political title

iv. She will be challenged to trust God to help her **25** Then

came she and worshipped him, saying,

Lord, help me.

v. Her faith drives her to worship Him

c. This woman couldn't be discouraged, she was persistent

25 Then **came she and worshipped him,**

saying, **Lord, help me.**

- i. She came for help and will not leave without it
- ii. She believes, prays, and keeps waiting
- iii. She meant it. She was seriously in need of God working in her life
- iv. Her prayers were genuine. She was not going through the motions

3. The exchange between Jesus and the woman. Notice how Jesus responds 23 **But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away;** for she crieth after us. 24 **But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

a. We learn from Mark that Jesus was trying to get away for awhile [Mark 7:24](#) And from thence he arose, and went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into an house, and **would have no man know it:** but he could not be hid.

i. Maybe the crush of the ministry, all the people, all the needs called on Jesus to make sure that His disciples got rest

ii. They have crossed the border where most Jews probably would not want to go and mix with the Gentiles

iii. He doesn't want anyone to know where He is

b. Some how the word is out and this Canaanite lady finds

Jesus [22](#) And, behold, a **woman of**

Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried

unto him, saying, **Have mercy on**

me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my

daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

- i. She approaches Jesus asking for mercy
 - ii. She calls him Lord
 - iii. She uses His Jewish title
 - iv. She knows her need
 - v. She apparently does believe that Jesus is the Jewish messiah
- c. Jesus was silent. **23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, **Send her away;** for she crieth after us.**
- i. Notice he doesn't respond
 - ii. The disciples want to get rid of her. They are bothered by her crying. They may have just wanted to rest and play but the ministry caught up to them again
 - iii. Maybe they were saying, give her what she wants and get rid of her
 - iv. Regardless they sure are not showing much compassion. They are probably thinking of their own comfort. Their vacation.

- v. Maybe what Jesus says next indicates that they were asking for her help and their relief
- d. Jesus is on a mission right now to get the gospel to the

Jews **24** But he answered and said, **I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

- i. The gospel came to the Jew first and then to the Gentile
- ii. This is one of those pivotal moments in the Bible
- iii. God is moving the gospel from the Jews to the church
- iv. Jesus wants the world to be saved but He has been working through Israel and the focus is shifting to using and working through the church, both Jew and Gentile
- e. The woman knows what Jesus is saying but will not give up **25** Then **came she and worshipped**

him, saying, Lord, help me.

f. Jesus then makes it clear that He was working in Israel

right now 26 But he answered and said, **It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.**

- i. He is sharing the gospel, the good news with the Jews
- ii. He refers to not giving it to the dogs which is based on an insult that the Jews have for non Jewish people
- iii. The word He uses for dog is not the street mongrel but the pet dog in the house that is eating from the table and the master's hand
- iv. Obviously in all of this Jesus is teaching her
- v. He is drawing her to Himself
 - 1. He doesn't insult her like the Jews would have done but uses a word that was sweet and tender for dog
 - 2. He has refused to help her causing her to persist, insist, and wait on God to work
 - 3. True prayer and faith will not let go of God
- g. The woman will not let go of God till she gets what she came for 27 And she said, **Truth, Lord: yet the**

dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

- i. She humbly acknowledges who and what she is
 - ii. She still knows what kind of God He is
 - iii. Jesus is kind, He is merciful, He cannot and will not turn away one that comes seeking Him
 - iv. She simply responds using Jesus own comparison asking for help
 - v. All she wants is a crumb. She is not angry, bitter, complaining. She just needs help
- h. Jesus grants her request and is excited about her faith **28**
Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, **great is thy faith:** be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.
- i. He gives her what she wants.
 - ii. He mentions her great faith
 - iii. He has granted a petition to a gentile woman
 - iv. He has shown His great mercy and grace
 - v. You also see His heart for all people

4. What are the great lessons and applications for us
- a. God loves people period.
 - b. Faith excites Him **28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, **great is thy faith:** be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.**
 - c. Our God has a plan for the whole world and we should all be doing our part to fulfill His will getting the gospel to the world
 - d. Live your eyes and see beyond your borders. See past your house, your family, your future, your comfort to what Jesus would have you looking at
 - e. Love even your enemies. Do not let the news make you hate Muslims. They are pawns in the hands of the devil. They are not your enemy. They need Jesus
 - f. Don't let your pride hinder you from coming to God for His blessing and work in your life
 - g. Believe God and don't quit no matter how you are treated or what happens
 - h. Look for the answer by faith instead of finding excuses to accept the status quo. God is at work in your life

- i. Fully expect God to show Himself in your life
- j. Go to Him with your needs, believing that He will hear and answer.
- k. Don't stop believing. Don't give up. Don't quit praying till God answers you
- l. Real faith is lived out
- m. Real faith won't be seen till you have no where else to go
- n. Believe God right now