

Striving to Enter In

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Straight Paths Bible Church

Matthew 15:21-29 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. 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. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, **I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.** Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, **It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.** And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. 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. This woman needed help.
 - A. She knew that she had a spiritual problem and for that kind of problem there was no help to be found among her own people.
 1. She had come to the point where she knew that her problem could not be solved by the foolish wisdom of her own people (the world).
 2. Every lost person has to come to the realization that the crowd they have always ran with doesn't have the answers and will never give them the help they need.
 3. As much as they may despise God's people they must go to them to find the answers to their spiritual problems.
 - B. She, and everyone else, knew that she had no reason to expect anything from Jesus because of who she was and who He was. (Jew and Gentile)
 1. Like the Samaritan woman in John 4 – “the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.”
 2. There seems to be a natural enmity between God's people and the the enemies of God.
 3. She realized that when it comes to solving spiritual problems all the social pecking orders and prejudices must be done away with.
 - C. Whatever feelings or opinions she might have had for the Jews she put them aside in order to get help from the Lord.
 1. Surely she had been taught to hate them and think evil of them.
 2. There is always that animosity between the children of the world and the children of God.
- II. She had some very hard obstacles to overcome.
 - A. All of her own opinions and ideas about the Jews were no doubt a hindrance to her.
 1. She had to come to the place in her own heart where she could lie all that aside and ignore her own feelings.
 2. Even though there appeared to be very little hope of getting help from a Jew desperation drove her to try.
 - B. No doubt she was discouraged by her own people to go to Jesus for help.
 1. Your old companions in sin will never encourage you to really get right with God.
 - C. The disciples said to Jesus to send her away.

1. Those closest to the Lord thought of her as a nuisance, had no time for her, and didn't even consider helping her.
 2. There are plenty of folks in the church that will give the enemies of the Lord great occasion to justify themselves in this.
- D. The Lord himself didn't answer her a word.
1. She didn't give up because she didn't get an answer right away.
 2. She did not just make one feeble attempt and then say, "It's no use!"

III. She worshipped Him anyway – in spite of all the defeats so far.

- A. Even though He would not speak a word to her she WORSHIPPED Him.
1. Can you worship God anyway, even when He doesn't speak a word to you, and seems like He doesn't even hear your cry for help?
- B. Her worship for Him was not conditioned upon Him meeting her requests, or helping her in her distress – she did it anyway.
1. Whether He helped her or not He was still worthy of worship, her heart still adored him.
- C. This is what got Him to speak to her – but He likened her a dog!
1. How many have left a church for far less than that?
 2. His answer gave no assurance or hope to this woman whatsoever.
 3. Whatever low place He put her in she just accepted it immediately and kept praying – "Truth, Lord, yet the dogs eat of the crumbs ..."
- D. Some things about dogs.
1. They can be some of the most filthy and disgusting animals.
 2. God always uses the term to show the highest contempt; it is the low mark on the standard.
 3. But dogs are almost impossible to offend.
 4. Dogs never hold a grudge and will forgive you no matter what you do to them.
 5. They still want to be your friend and be accepted by you no matter how you treat them.
 6. They are willing and happy to just eat of the crumbs which fall from your table.
- E. This woman readily accepted the words of Jesus that she was a dog.
1. She realized her true state before Him – unworthy and filthy in his sight.
 2. She was determined to worship and adore Him whether she received anything for it or not.
- F. We should all do as this woman done, because she overcame all the obstacles and got her prayer answered.
1. In spite of being in the wrong dispensation.
 2. In spite of being of the wrong nation and race.
 3. In spite of all the discouragement from those who should have pointed her in the right direction.
 4. In spite of not getting an answer right away and even receiving discouragement and rejection from the Lord himself.
- G. Most of all she was not seeking to do something herself, but was simply casting herself on the mercy of the Lord.
- H. This is what Jesus was talking about when He said:

Luke 13:24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.