

## Lesson 06: Even the Dogs!

Matthew 15: (18-20) 21-28 (20-39); Ephesians 2:1-22

- I. **THE WITHDRAWAL OF JESUS** (21; Mk 7:31; Act 13:46-48; Isa 49:6)—**Jesus left Jewish territory and *deliberately* went to the Gentiles.**
  - A. **The Abraham Connection** (Gen 18:17-18 & 22:17-18)—***promise of blessing***
    1. **The Land of Canaan** (Gen 12:5-7; 13:15-17; 15:18)—***promised to him & his offspring***
    2. **The Father of Multitudes** (Gen 13:16; 15:5; 18:18)—***a great nation, many nations***
      - a. **Physical Descendants**—***many nations descended from Abraham, not just Israel***
      - b. **Spiritual Descendants**—**Those Who Believe** (Rom 4:16, 23-24; Gal 3:26-29)
        - This Canaanite woman is **a truer descendent of Abraham** than were the Pharisees.
  - B. **The Canaanite Connection**—***from Israel's History***
    1. **Israel's Unfinished Conquest**—(Josh 13:1-5)—***Jesus is the Ultimate Joshua***  
Israel was not able to conquer the entire Promised Land during Joshua's lifetime.
    2. **Israel's Golden Years** (2 Sam 5:10-11)—***Jesus is the Greater David***  
Hiram King of Tyre supplied him with Cedars of Lebanon to build his royal palace.
    3. **Israel's Wicked Kings** (1 Kings 6:29-33)—***Jesus is the Righteous King of Israel***  
King Ahab marries Sidonian princess and officially brings the worship of Baal to Israel.
- II. **THE CRY OF THE WOMAN** (22)
  - A. **The Epitome Of Uncleanness**
    1. A Woman
    2. A Gentile
  - B. **A Model of Faith** (28)—***Jesus praises her and grants her request.***
    1. **Recognition** (22; Mat 11:25-28; Jn 6:36-37, 44)—***recognized Jesus as the Messiah***
    2. **Humility** (25, 27)—***contrast to the offended pride of people in Jesus' hometown***
    3. **Persistence** (Mat 7:7-8; Gen 32:26)—***refused to be discouraged until she received***

### III. THE DISDAIN OF THE DISCIPLES

- A. The Epitome Of Entitlement—*self-righteous, impatient, smug and superior*
1. Chauvinistic—*prejudiced belief in superiority of your own group, nation, gender*
  2. Racist (Act 10:34-35)—*the Kingdom of God is multi-ethnic*
  3. Uncharitable—*when we don't see that we are them, dehumanize & despise them*
- B. Slow Learners (Act 10:15; Rom 14:17, 20b)—*Don't call unclean what God has made clean!*

### IV. THE RESPONSE OF JESUS—*His initial response seems out of character.*

- A. The Silence of Jesus (23)—*Initially doesn't respond at all.*
- B. The Insult from Jesus (24, 26)—*Likely verbalizing what the disciples were thinking.*
- C. The Praise of Jesus (28)—*She is held up as an example of great faith.*
1. Testing His Disciples' Understanding—*teaching on clean and unclean*
  2. Testing the Woman's Faith—*drawing it out for display as an example*

### V. THE OVERFLOW OF GOD'S GRACE (Mat 8:11; Jn 6:48-51)—*a place at feast with Abraham*

- A. The Blessing of All Nations (Gen 12:1-3; 18:18)
1. The Nation of Israel—*was supposed to be a witness to the world, very limited*
  2. The Messiah (Gal 3:14, 16)—*blessing of Abraham also for Gentiles in Christ*
  3. The Church (Eph 2:19-22; Rev 7:9-10)—*redeemed from all nations, united in Christ, built together as God's dwelling. People of every nation are included in the Church.*
- B. Equality in the Kingdom of God (Rom 2:9-11; Gal 3:28)
1. No one deserves salvation. (Rom 3:9-12; Eph 2:3)—*Equally damned*
  2. Jesus saves everyone who comes to Him. (14:14-16; 15:32; Jn 6:37; Act 10:34-35)—*Equally saved*
  3. We are citizens of a New Kingdom. (Eph 2:19; Rev 7:9-10) *Equal sons and citizens*