

The Syro-phoenician Woman

(Mat 15:21-28; Mk 7:24-30)

- I. **THE LOCATION** (Lk 4:24-27)—*City of Tyre in Syro-Phoenicia, Gentile territory north of Galilee*
 - A. **Undefeated Canaanite Cities** (Josh 13:3-4; Jud 1:31-32; 2:3, 21-23)—historic animosity since Israel’s conquest of the Promised Land
 - B. **Proud and Wealthy** (Ezekiel 28)—King of Tyre/the fall of Lucifer
 - C. **Stronghold of Greek Culture**—antagonistic to Jewish culture
 - D. **Historic Miracles of the Prophets**
 1. **Elijah** (1 King 17:7-24)—the widow of Zarephath (in Sidon)
 2. **Elisha** (2 King 5)—Healed Naaman the Syrian of leprosy
- II. **THE WOMAN** (Mat 15:21-22; Mk 7:24-26)
 - A. **Gentile** (Eph 2:12-19)—Canaanite, Syro-Phoenician, Greek
Not a recipient of God’s covenant blessings given to Israel
 - B. **Mother**—she comes to find help for her little girl
 - C. **Belief in the Messiah**—addresses Jesus by His Jewish Messianic title, “Son of David”
- III. **HER PROBLEM** (1 Jn 3:8; Lk 4:31-36)—the reason she comes to Jesus
 - A. **Demonic Possession**

1. **Demonic spirits are real.**
2. **They are able to possess humans.**
3. **They always bring torment and harm.**

B. **Suffering Daughter**

IV. **JESUS' RESPONSE** (Matt 15:23-28; Mk 7:27-30)

A. **The Silence**—*Is Jesus unresponsive?*

1. **The Dramatic Pause** ()—allowing the tension to build
2. **A Test for Disciples** ()—How will they respond to the crisis?
3. **A Demonstration of Persistence** (Jer 29:13; Mat 7:7-8; Lk 18:1-7)—She keeps calling out until she gets an answer.

B. **The Rebuff**—*Is Jesus racist?*

1. **The Attitude of the Disciples**—voicing their thoughts
2. **The Attitude of the Woman** (Prov 3:34/1 Pet 5:5)—humble appeal to God's generosity
3. **Salvation for the Gentiles** (Isa 49:6; Jn 10:16; Eph 3:6)—*has always been the plan!*

C. **The Praise** (1 Cor 1:28-29; Lk 7:9)—faith that is honored

D. **The Miracle**—complete authority of Jesus over demons

1. **Physical Presence and Incantation are not necessary.**
2. **Only Faith and the Authority of Jesus *are* necessary.**