

"A Mother's Great Faith"
Matthew 15:21-28
Mother's Day May 12, 2019

Our Passage is about a Hurting Mother that has a problem that only God can solve! Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

When she gets to Jesus, it seems like everything is against her.

This woman persists in her pursuit of Jesus, and Jesus makes a statement:
Matthew 15:28 – "O woman, your faith is great;"

Thought Of Our Passage: "Great Faith Accompanied By Humility Can Not Only Lead To Salvation, But Help In Difficult Circumstances."

1. Verses 21-22 – A Desperate Mother

2. Verses 23-27 – A Determined Mother

3. Verse 28 – A Delighted Mother

1. Verses 21-22 – A Desperate Mother:

Matthew 15:21 – "Jesus went away from there," – Context: Jesus had been in the Capernaum area where He has just had an intense discourse with the religious leaders over what is clean.

"withdrew into the district of Tyre" – Literally, "The Rock." Two great rocks join together a distance of 300 feet, making one of the world's great natural breakwaters for a harbor; Phoenicia on the Mediterranean Sea, or modern day Beirut, Lebanon. This is a distance of about 40 miles from Capernaum.

Sidon is 26 miles northeast of Tyre.

Mark 7:24

Matthew 15:22

Note – This Mother Faced 3 Obstacles:

- 1. Obstacle – Her Nationality** – "Canaanite" – a Gentile; Mark 7:26 – "of the Syrophenician race." Syrian and Phoenicia area, a people of Greek in religion and speech. Jesus had been sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Canaanites were the people Joshua was to conquer.

2. Obstacle – Her Gender – “woman” – The Jewish nation was predominately a male-dominated culture. There was a distinct line that was drawn as to what a woman and man could do.

“a woman” – Most believe that she was a Single Parent; she came alone.

“from that region came out” – How did she hear about Him?

3. Obstacle – A Daughter, Demon-Possessed – “my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed.”

“my daughter” – literally translated, “my darling little girl.” 1 Kings 17:10 – a similarity between the woman that Elijah brought healing to, also in the land of Sidon, same area, a woman.

“is cruelly demon-possessed.” – Mark 7:25 – “had an unclean spirit,” – This little girl was possessed of an evil spirit. “cruelly” – “morally, physically, being destroyed, perishing.”

Isaiah 5:20

Afflictions Can Prove To Be A Blessing To Ones Soul: “and began to cry out, saying, ‘Have mercy on me’”

Psalms 119:71

Notice what this mother does with her sorrow, she comes to Jesus.

God Was The Object Of Her Faith: “Lord,”

“Son of David;” – Messiah; She comes acknowledging Jesus as the promised Messiah of the Jews.

2. Verses 23-27 – A Determined Mother:

Matthew 15:23 – “But He did not answer her a word.” – Jesus seemed to be against her; Matthew 15:23 – “she keeps shouting at us.”

Why Is Jesus Silent?

1. Jesus Desired Seclusion – Mark 7:24
2. She addressed Him as “Son of David;” she was a Gentile, she had no claim on the Jewish Messiah. She was not a party to the Covenant.

3. She must learn that Jesus' ministry was primarily to Israel, and that it was through Israel that the blessings of the Covenant would ultimately reach the Gentiles, John 4:21-23.

4. As always, Jesus wished to draw out her faith.

Her Great Faith Was Not Silenced By Jesus' Silence: "Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us."

Sometimes believers can be obstacles to others coming to Jesus Christ.

Matthew 15:24 – "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
– John 4:22 – "for salvation is from the Jews."

Matthew 15:25

She Approached God In Humility: "But she came and began to bow down before Him," – She was humble; Mark 7:25 – "came and fell at His feet"

Psalms 51:17; James 4:6

"saying, "Lord, help me!" – Mark 7:26 – Persistent faith.

"she kept asking Him," – "she repeatedly asked again and again of Jesus."

Matthew 15:26 – "bread" – The "bread" (Word); food that the disciples were being fed.

Romans 1:16 – "to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

"and throw it to the dogs." – "Dogs" was a derogatory term for the Gentiles.

Jesus uses the word that refers to "a little dog" or "puppy."

Matthew 15:27

The Object Of Her Faith Was God: "Yes, Lord,"

Genesis 22:18

We need to see ourselves as puppies that are at the mercy of another.

"but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." – "It is true that we Gentiles do not sit at the table as children and eat the bread. But even the dogs get to eat some of the leftover crumbs!"

2 Necessary Ingredients:

- 1. She Came In Faith:** Knowing that He is the only one that can meet her need, that He is the Messiah, the Lord; Poor in spirit.
- 2. She Came In Humility Seeking Mercy:** I will be that puppy that will accept what the children are rejecting.

3. Verse 28 – A Delighted Mother:

Matthew 15:28 – “Then Jesus said to her, ‘O woman, your faith is great;’” – There are only two people that Jesus commends for their faith. Both were Gentiles:

1. Roman Centurion – Matthew 8:10, 13
2. This Mother In Our Passage – Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 7:29 – “Because of this answer go your way;”

“it shall be done for you as you wish.” – This is called “Carte Blanche.”

“And her daughter was healed at once.” – We persevere in prayer until we receive the promise from Jesus.

Application:

1. A Great Faith Is In The Source, Which Is Jesus. Faith Takes God At His Word: Matthew 15:22 – “Lord, Son of David; Matthew 15:28 – “O woman, your faith is great;”
2. A Great Faith Appeals In Humility, Seeking God’s Mercy: Matthew 15:22 – “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David;” She knew she did not deserve a thing from Jesus – Matthew 15:27 – “Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.”
3. A Great Faith Is Persistent, It Does Not Let Go Or Give Up: Matthew 15:23 – she keeps shouting at us.” Matthew 15:28 – “O woman, your faith is great;”