

“A Mother’s Hope”
Matthew 15:21-28
Mother’s Day May 13, 2012

Matthew 15:21-28

I believe that “Motherhood Is The Essence Of Womanhood.”

But this woman persists in her pursuit of Jesus, and Jesus makes a statement.
Matt 15:28 – “O woman, your faith is great;”

- 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:

Matt 15:21

Jesus taught that unwashed hands do not make one unclean, but Jesus now visits a territory of people that the Jews considered unclean.

“withdrew into the district of Tyre” – Literally – “The Rock”

“Sidon”, Matthew 15:21, is 26 miles Northeast of Tyre.

So why did Jesus step out of Israel? Jesus had an appointment with a Gentile woman.

Matt 15:22

Note The 3 Obstacles This Mother Faced:

1. Her Nationality – “Canaanite” – a Gentile, (Mark 7:26) of the Syrophenician race.

Canaanite’s were the people Joshua was to conquer when Israel came into the land of Canaan.

2. Her Gender – “woman” – The Jewish nation was predominately a male dominated culture.

3. Demon Possession – Daughter had an unclean spirit: “my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed.”

“my daughter” – Literally translated, “My darling little girl” (1 Kings 17:10)

"is cruelly demon-possessed." – (Mark 7:25) had an unclean spirit, cruelly – "morally, physically, being destroyed, perishing"

Isaiah 5:20

Afflictions Can Prove To Be A Blessing To One's Soul: "and began to cry out, saying, 'Have mercy on me,'"

"The same sun that hardens clay can melt wax."

Psalms 119:71

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

"Son of David;" – (Messiah) She comes acknowledging Jesus as the promised Messiah of the Jews.

2. Verses 23-27 – A Determined Mother:

Matt 15:23

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.
3. She must learn that Jesus' ministry was primarily to Israel, and that it was through them 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.

She was not silenced by Jesus' silence! And His disciples came to Him and kept asking Him, saying, "Send her away, for she is shouting out after us."

The Followers of Jesus Often Lack The Savior's Compassion:

Matt 15:24

John 4:22 – "for salvation is from the Jews."

Matt 15:25

She came in humility to Jesus: "But she came and began to bow down before Him,"

Matthew 7:7-8

Matt 15:26

“for it is not good to take the children's bread” – The bread (Word) was the food that the disciples were being fed with.

Rom. 1:16

“and throw it to the dogs.” – “Dogs” was a term that the Jews had invented as a derogatory term for the Gentiles. The term “Dogs” that they used was a reference to the wild scavenger dogs that would run around in packs.

Jesus calls this woman a dog. He uses the word that refers to “a little dog,” or “puppy.”

Matt 15:27

Gen. 22:18

“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 pet dogs under the table can eat some of the crumbs!”

The 2 Necessary Ingredients:

1. She Came In Faith –
2. She Came In Humility –

3. Verse 28 – A Delighted Mother:

Matt 15:28

“Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, your faith is great;” – There are only two people that Jesus commend for their faith. We need to note that both were Gentiles.

1. Roman Centurion – Matt. 8:5-13
2. This Woman In Our Passage –

Mom what would you ask for? Think about it, anything!

When we ask for the good of our children for the glory of God, that is a good request.

Application:

1. A Great Faith Is In Jesus, The Source – Matt 15:22 – “O Lord, Son of David;” Her faith was in the source, a real person. (God/Messiah)
2. A Great Faith Appeals On The Basis Of His Mercy In Humility – Matt 15:22 “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David;” – She knew she did not deserve a thing from Jesus – Matt 15:27 – But she said, “Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.”
3. A Great Faith Is Persistent – Does not Let go Until God Meets the Need. Matt 15:23 – “she is shouting out after us.”; Matthew 15:28 – “Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, your faith is great; be it done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed at once.”