

Woman great is your faith

Matt.15:21-28

21 Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

23 But He answered her not a word.

And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

26 But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw *it* to the little dogs."

27 And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great *is* your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

This describes the only occasion on which Jesus ever went outside Palestine and outside Jewish territory. At the time Jesus visited these cities He was approaching His crucifixion, so it was a time of deliberate withdrawal.

I) Matt.15:28 "Woman great is your faith"

Jesus seldom honors anyone with such a praise. How much of the Jews religion this Gentile woman knew is difficult to know. Perhaps she was an individual who based her actions and request upon the strength of the testimony of others. And since true faith is based upon testimony, it was the kind of faith that pleased Christ.

II) Matt.15:22 "Lord Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession"

Her problem: her daughter is demon possessed. It is remarkable that a stranger would make such a request, but in urgent times men and women forget barriers. Her greatness lies in the fact when she was tested, her faith stood the test, when tried her faith won.

III) Matt.15:23 "Jesus did not answer a word." The first test, the test of silence.

She probably heard of His sympathy, compassion and willingness to help. He completely ignored her and her request. Jesus gave no reply. She is persistent, silence does not stop her. She now pleads through the Disciples

IV) Matt.15:23 "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us" Next she is pushed away.

Get rid of her, send her away, let's not be bothered. This should have broken her spirit but not this woman.

V) Matt.15:24 "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel" Tested by the Law of Christ's earthly ministry.

In the short time allotted Him it was necessary to confine His efforts to the people best prepared for His mission, the Jews. Verse 25 "The woman came and knelt before Him ."Lord help me!"

VI) Matt15:26 "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs" Then Jesus put her to the most severe test.

One of the worst insult you could give someone, "You're a dog." She should have left in tears,

she should have given up. After all Jesus said NO!

Matt15:27 “Yes ,Lord, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

VII) Matt.15:28 ”Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” Her faith triumphed !

Her faith won it’s way into the heart of Jesus. I would think Jesus thought about the rebellious Jews who refused to accept Him. She persisted when He was silent, she reasoned when He spoke and she regarded her request as a crumb form His abundant power.

Our lesson: *True faith is persevering, keeps trying, keeps working.*

Eph.3:20 ”Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us”

Dave Richards