

MARK 7:24-30 A WOMAN OF FAITH

INTRO:

- After just over a year Jesus removes Himself from His familiar region into a Gentile region, moving north and west some 35 -40 miles as the crow flies but on foot about 50 miles.
- Over hills and mountains toward the coast of the Mediterranean.
- This area Jesus went to was a gentile area and it was very rare for Jesus to leave the borders of Israel to go into a heathen location.
- He did this only one other time when He walked through Samaria to Jacob's well and spoke with the woman there.
- Tyre and Sidon were located on the coastal region of the Mediterranean Sea, about 20 miles apart and they were of the Phoenician culture.
- They were the two most important cities of Phoenicia.
- This is the same area Elijah had fled to when under threat of Ahab and Jezebel some 900 years earlier during the 3.5 year drought.
- Both of these region cities were major centers of idol worship especially the goddess of fertility, Astarte, known as Ashtoreth. (Jud. 2:13, 10:6)
- This area was under Roman rule and the Jewish Rabbis said the area was committed to gross paganism and idolatry.
- Today this area is part of southern Lebanon.
- **Read through both MK. And Mt.**

OBSERVATIONS:

- It seems probable that Jesus took Himself and His disciples here to escape the non-stop pressure of the ministry and get some well needed rest. (see vs. 24)
- Vs. 24 Jesus could not be hid in the house. Is He hid in my house?
- Mt. 15:22 says the woman's daughter was "severely" demon possessed!
- Matt. mentions this woman cried aloud, "at the top of her voice" for help, instantly confessing her daughter's need of deliverance.
- Imagine having to say that about your child, your daughter. In her desperation and determination there is nothing hid, nothing secret from Jesus or His disciples. She had no reputation to keep; she wanted above all things her daughter set free. The welfare of her daughter was all that mattered.
- See the contrast of this woman of faith and the hypocritical Pharisees from earlier in this chapter. 1-23. She believed they hated and doubted.
- They claimed to be wise but here proved themselves to be foolish, they claimed to see, but here they proved their blindness.
- Jesus has such power over Satan that all He had to do was say the word, even from a distance. Perfect omnipotence.

THE WOMAN:

- It is interesting to note that the writers of this event highlight the fact that this woman was not a Jew.
- Mark identifies her as a Greek, and as a Syro-Phoenician woman. (A Syrian of Phoenicia, or perhaps mixed race both Syrian and Phoenician.)
- Mt. identifies her as Canaanite. (Mt. 15:22)
- In the O.T. God had ordered the Canaanites to be utterly destroyed. They worshipped demon idols, unclean sexuality, and even the sacrifice of children to their gods.
- According to first century eastern and Jewish culture this woman had everything against her.
 - 1) she was a woman, a lone woman. (Where was the father?)
 - 2) She was a Gentile.
 - 3) She was a descendant of the hated Canaanites, enemies of Israel. (ex. 23:23,29) Dt. 7:2)
 - 4) Her upbringing was steeped in pagan idolatry. She herself likely worshipped idols;
- No respectable Jew would have had any contact with a gentile, especially an idolatrous Canaanite woman.
- They were to be destroyed utterly and no covenant shall be made with them.

HER FAITH:

- Mt. vs 28; "O woman, great *is* your faith! Let it be to you as you desire."
- This woman repeatedly begged of Jesus for her daughters deliverance and would not take "no" for an answer. She persisted. (vs. 26) , kept asking, besought, (kjv.)
 - More frequently it suggests that the petitioner is on a footing of equality or familiarity with the person whom he requests. It is used of a king in making request from another king, Luk 14:32;
- What proceeded out of her mouth gave evidence of what was in her heart. Faith. Jesus answered her faith by saying her "woman great is your faith." (Mt. 15:28)
- Jesus uses this phrase this praise only once more and that is to another Gentile, the Roman Centurion. (Mt. 8:20)
- She came to Jesus begging and appealing to His inherent goodness, power and divinity. O Lord, Son of David, Lord, Master. Not on her own merits or goodness. (rich young ruler.)
- The rich young rulers faith crumbled when tested for it was at least partially build on himself on his goodness.
- VS. 25; She came and fell at His feet.
- Mt. 15:25, Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"
- Notice in Mt. gospel, it was at the point of what seemed to be a refusal from Jesus to help her, that she fell at His feet and worshipped Him. (Mt. 15:24)

- **Am I looking for an answer from Jesus? Learn from this woman; see her desperation, honesty, persistence, faith and worship.**
- **Remember last week's exhortation on worship. (7, 8) Sproul.....**
- **This incident here illustrates the substance of real faith, it is humble, reverent, persistent, honest, worship based and has for its focus the character of God.**

GRAFTED IN:

- **This incident of Jesus making a covenant with this mother of Canaan, and accepting this Gentile woman's request, is a picture, a foreshadowing, of the grace that was to come to all Gentiles. The great reconciling ministry of Jesus. (Jn. 3:16)**
- **She had no right, but Jesus is filled with grace.**
- **We like this woman are non-Israelites. We are the gentiles, the "little dogs," the wild olive branches that God has grafted into Himself.**
 - **Rom. 11: 17.**
- **The children of Israel refused their Messiah Jesus and His gift of salvation, and He has opened to us this unspeakable gift of adoption and salvation, to us who had no claim to it. (Mt. 21:43)**
- **Eph. 2: 13-19, Gal. 3:29, 4:28, 31**

THE DIALOG:

- **Vs. 27, how Jesus responds to this woman seems to be harsh, yet see the grace in it.**
- **Notice the word, "first" suggesting there must be a second. A day was coming when the gospel would be opened to every tribe tongue and nation.**
- **The word "dogs" in the Greek would be "little dogs."**
- **There were in Israel at this time wondering, dirty, scavenger dogs that roam around the streets looking for food, many things,**
- **But the term "little dogs" is a term referring to small dogs that were kept in the house as pets, and cared for and often fed from scraps given to them from the table.**
- **At first she seemed to approach Him as an entitled child of Israel, see Mt. 15:22 using the Divine title "thou Son of David." Which is a title reserved for the house of Israel. To this He responded that she did not have the right to claim this as she was not Jewish,**
- **But when she approached Him openly and honestly calling Him Lord and referring to Him as Master, He responded to her on those terms acknowledging her correct approach and her faith. (Vs 24, 27)**
- **And thus He today responds to all who come to Him in honesty and humble.**

CLOSING:

- **How did the devil get into this child?**
- **The families idol worship.. worshipping false gods, thus opening the children to demonic attacks and possessions.**
- **No Godly covering in the home, be ever so careful what we worship. What we bring into our homes. A holy, consecrated surrendered life is a covering not only for our own souls but the souls of our children.**
- **Because of what is happening in this country morally, the demand to celebrate abominations liked abortion, homosexuality, lesbianism, gender confusion, sexual promiscuity and perversions and the exploitation of children, demon possession is on the rise and will increase all around us. Cover your house...**
- **Imagine the celebration when this mother arrived home and told them all of Jesus... again He could not be hid in that house!**
- **Jesus responds to the soul that is in agony regardless of race, privilege or disability. This the disciples had to learn and remove from themselves the robe of prejudice they had toward Gentiles. (note the book of Acts.)**
 - **Gal. 5:6, For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.**
- **It was no accident or coincidence that the Savior met the suffer, that omniscience and compassion met desperation and faith.**
- **Jesus always arrives on time, He never, never misses His ordained appointments. A great need will always attend a great Savior.**
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