

## MARK 7:24-30 A WOMAN OF FAITH PART 2

### INTRO:

- Tyer and Sidon were located 50 miles NW 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 regional cities were major centers of idol worship especially the goddess of fertility, Astarte, known as Ashtoreth. (Jud. 2:13, 10:6)
- Today this area is part of southern Lebanon.
- **Read through both MK. And Mt.**

### OBSERVATIONS:

- 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 daughters 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 protect; she wanted above all things her daughter set free. The welfare of her daughter was all that mattered.

### 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. (mixed race of Syrian and Phoenician.)
- Matt. 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;

## **THE DIALOG:**

- ***Tell the story; This heathen woman knowing something of the miraculous power of Jesus, comes to the house where He is staying for rest and cries out for the help of Jesus or anyone who can somehow help her, (have mercy on me O Lord Thou Son of David.)***
- ***She is relentless in her cries and tires His disciples, who come complaining of her to Jesus. Jesus remains silent, no response.***
- ***The disciples come to Jesus who was hearing all this and beg of Him to send her away, do something she is annoying us. .” Jesus replies that He was only sent unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”***
- ***She then draws close to Jesus and falls at His feet in worship saying “Lord help me.” He then replies again saying, “let the children be filled first, it is not right to take of the children’s food and throw it to the little dogs.” She replies, “Yes Lord.” Yet the little dogs eat of the scraps that fall under the Masters table.” He then replies to her faith and declares that “great is her faith.”***
- **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 literally be “little dogs.”
- There were in Israel at this time packs of wondering, dirty, scavenger dogs that roamed around the streets looking for food, mangy things.
- But the term Jesus uses here, “little dogs” is a term referring to small dogs that were kept in the house as pets, 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 **Matt. 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 of the house of Israel.
- 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. (**Matt. 15:27**)
- And thus He today responds to all who come to Him in honesty and humble.

## **HER FAITH:**

- **VS. 25; She came and fell at His feet.**
- **Matt. 15:25, Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"**
- **Notice in Matt. 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)**
- **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.)**
- **Matt. 15:27; notice her first word. "YES Lord" she did not argue with His assessment, but appealed to His goodness.**
- **The rich young ruler's faith crumbled when tested for it was at least partially; build on himself, on his goodness.**
- **Matt. vs 28; "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire."**
- **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."**
- **Jesus uses this phrase this praise only once more and that is to another Gentile, the Roman Centurion whose servant was sick. (Mt. 8:20)**
- **Am I looking for an answer from Jesus? Learn from this woman; see her desperation, honesty, persistence, faith and worship.**
- **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, A GLIMPS OF THE GOSPEL:**

- **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)**
- **As a Nation the children of Israel refused their Messiah Jesus and His gift of salvation, and He has opened to the Gentile, us, this unspeakable gift of adoption and salvation, to us who had no claim to it. (Mt. 21:43)**
  - **Rom. 11: 11, 17-20?.**
  - **Eph. 2: 13-19, Gal. 3:29, 4:28, 31.**
- **We like this woman are non-Israelites. We are the gentiles, the "little dogs," the wild olive branches that God has grafted into Himself.**
- **She had no right, She was outside the present covenant, but see the inclusiveness of God. (the Promise of Abraham to bless all Nations)**
- **He was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, yet....**

## **CLOSING:**

- **How did the devil get into this child?**
- **The families idol worship, worshipping false gods, thus opening the children to demonic attacks and possession.**
- **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 wives, our children.**
- **Because of what is happening in this country morally, the demand to celebrate abominations like 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...**
- **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 be attended by a great Savior.**
- **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.**
- **This Gentile woman's only claim or connection to The savior was that she was a great sinner, and He is a Great Savior.**
- **He is a friend and deliverer of the broken repentant sinner.**
- **Christ's power is without limit, His power to set free, but what if there were 7 demons? Mary Magdalene.... But what if there were a thousand? The Gadarene demoniac..**
- **The obstacles for this woman were far greater than ours, to her the doors were closed, the disciples guarding the doorway to Jesus, a Gentile, yet she prevails.**
- **Because she came to His house, He came to her house.**
- **Imagine the celebration when this mother arrived home, finding the girl delivered, and told them all of Jesus... He could not be hid in that house!**
- **The last view of Tyre and Sidon,**
  - **Acts 21:4-6, Disciples**
  - **Acts 27:3 Paul visits friends.**