

Gospel of Matthew “Crumbs and the Gospel”
Matthew 15:21-28
July 30, 2023

Matthew 15:21-28

21 And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.
22 And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.”
23 But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” 24 He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” 26 And he answered, “It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.” 27 She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.” 28 Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Tyre and Sidon highlight everything an Israelite would have avoided.

Matthew 10:5-6

5 These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, 6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
7 And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

The future keeps breaking into the present.

Matthew 15:26

26 And he answered, “It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.”

Matthew 15:27

27 She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.”

There are children and dogs but all under the same roof.

The woman doesn't leave angry or depressed but stays.

Luke 18:1-8

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. 2 He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ 4 For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” 6 And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. 7 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay

long over them? 8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

John 2:3-5

3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Are there times when God is quiet?

Is God bringing a hard word?

"The woman's faith broke through the waiting period, the time in which Jesus would come to Jerusalem as Israel's Messiah, be killed and raised again, and then send his follower out into the world. The disciples, and perhaps Jesus himself, are not yet ready for Calvary. This foreign woman is already insisting upon Easter."

Faith is believing that Jesus is good even when his words do not seem to be.

What God will ultimately do will be more than we can think or imagine, great faith knows this - and great faith says "why not now."

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- 1.) What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) What is your experience of family pets eating around the kitchen table? Is this allowed or avoided in your home?
- 3.) Why does God sometimes seem slow in answering our requests? Why do you think it took some time for Jesus to address the Canaanite woman's need? Are you waiting on God to answer a request currently?
- 4.) When Jesus responds to the Canaanite woman, his words seem challenging. How do you hear Jesus' remark to the woman? Rude? Playful? What role do hard words and challenge have in our walk with Christ and with one another?
- 5.) What does the woman reveal as she hears Jesus words and seemingly turns the table on Jesus? How does she model faith for us?
- 6.) As we see the woman's remarkable faith, how do we also see mercy expressed by Jesus? What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?
- 7.) How can your Grow Group help you apply this passage to your life this week?