

Church School Lesson: "Faith of a Canaanite" Lesson Text: Matthew 15:21-28 Key Text: "Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment." Matthew 15:28 Happy Birthday!! Jacob Manley and Our 1 ${ }^{\text {st }}$ Lady, Sis. Kelly Attles
Summary of the Lesson: Years ago, I participated in an off-site diversity training program developed by my employer. There were about 10 people in my group; different by job title, gender and ethnicity. The intent of the program was to raise awareness of the value and understanding of the different groups within the company. In other words, the more we know about each other, the more we realize that we are not very different at all. Isn't it funny that in 2024 , we are still struggling with the same issue? In the lesson today, there is a diversity issue. Jesus' ministry has moved to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Gentile towns. It is notable that after the exodus, the Israelites settled in the land God promised them. It was divided amongst the tribes and the inheritance given to the tribe of Asher included the towns of Tyre and Sidon. That tribe did not drive out the Canaanite inhabitants as God had directed. So, its inhabitants are both Jewish and Canaanite (Gentile). The Canaanites are "outsiders". For Jesus to travel to an area that is largely Gentile meant, perhaps, not many people would follow Him as they had done in other places. The Law of Moses taught the Israelites to avoid following the pagan practices of other people groups and the Canaanite people were "other people groups". The Law must be followed! During my participation in the company's diversity training program, I sat there thinking these people don't know what my values are; don't know what my background is; don't know what my experiences are; don't know how I live; or what I believe. All they can know is what they see - black skin. Following the "rules" of the day could keep us separate without regard to human condition, culture, gender, religion, lifestyle, or ethnicity. Sound familiar? Why was Jesus in an area inhabited by people who were enemies of Israel? We know of instances wherein Jesus went off by Himself to pray, or simply to seek solitude. I can imagine the human side of Him was often tired, not only because of travel but also because of the demands the throngs of people placed on Him. What is different here? It was the cry of a desperate Canaanite mother who needed help. "Lord, son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon possessed and suffering terribly." The way she addressed Jesus, including reference to His lineage, lets us know she has heard about Him. The Jewish people had long expected a Messiah, a descendant of David. The prophets said so. Great expectations and what they saw were two very different things. Jesus didn't look like what they expected - He didn't look the part; maybe He came from the wrong neighborhood; maybe He didn't wear the right clothes; or maybe His color was the right color. What the people didn't know or understand, including His disciples, was that God, in the flesh, was right there in their midst. The blessing was right there in front of them! It is amazing that what they couldn't see and acknowledge, the "outsider" understood, at least to an extent. The desperate Canaanite mother needed help for her child. What is notable is that she didn't ask Jesus to heal her daughter. She said, "". . . have mercy on me." If you have ever been a caretaker for someone who is very ill, you know how stressful and tiring it can be. We don't know if the daughter's illness was physical, mental or both, but it was enough to cause suffering for the mother. Also note, Jesus' disciples wanted nothing to do with this Gentile woman, saying, "send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." What is also notable is that the mother was persistent; not giving up on the health of her daughter. "Help me!", she begged, knowing this man, Jesus was the expected One. Jesus acknowledged her faith and persistence by healing her daughter. Life is filled with all kinds of hardships. It takes a faith that is confident and steadfast so that God will show mercy in our circumstance. Remember the faith of the Canaanite woman; one considered an "outsider". Amen.

Sunday Worship Webinar: https://zoom.us///93197056304 -
Webinar ID: 93197056304 - Dial in +1 (646) 931-3860 - Then dial 93197056304 \#
Bible Study, Meetings, Church School \& Special Services - Join Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/99882887220 Meeting ID: 99882887220 Mobile +1 (301) 715-8592 then dial 9988288 7220\# passcode 1505

## ANNOUNCEMENTS "Virtual Bible Study" Tuesdays @ 7:30PM All are Welcome.

TODAY_-after the morning service we will celebrate our $1^{\text {st }}$ Lady, Sis. Kelly's birthday. All are welcome. Sponsored by the Pastor's Aid. -Sis. Jeanette Congleton, President
Next Sun., May $5^{\text {th }}$ After the morning service our youth will be making Mother's \& Father's Day cards after the morning service., Refreshments served.
Sun., May $12^{\text {th }}$ is "Mother's Day" its time to bring a family group picture that will be posted on the board in Sewell Hall. Please bring your picture next Sunday. Please give the picture to Sis. Goodman or Sis. Roberts. Sun., May $12^{\text {th }}-$ We Celebrate "Mother's Day"refreshments will be served after service. All are welcome. "The Church Campaign" has begun, all members are asked to give $\$ 100$ in support of the Ministry.
In Person Church School @ 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. All are welcome.

"Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence." Psalm 91:3-NKW
*CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 105:1-3, 7-8, 45 (ESV) - Evangelist Shanna Huff-Greene - Bethel Willow grove
L: Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!
P: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name;
L: let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth. He remembers his covenant forever,
All: the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations. Praise the Lord!
OPENING HYMN "How to Reach the Masses"
1)How to reach the masses, men of ev'ry birth, For an answer Jesus gave the key:

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, Will draw all men unto Me."
4) Lift Him up by living as a Christian ought, Let the world in you the Savior see;

Then men will gladly follow Him who once taught, "I'll draw all men unto Me." (Refrain)
Refrain: Lift Him up, Lift Him up, Still He speaks from eternity: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, Will draw all men unto Me."
*PRAYER
Brother Robert Love
*PRAYER RESPONSE
PRAISE DANCE
Sister Wilhelmina Love
WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC
DECLARATION Brother Robert Love - This is my Bible. I am what it says I am.
I can have what it says I can have. I can do what it says I can do. Today I will be taught the word of God.
My mind is alert. My heart is receptive. I'll never be the same again. In Jesus' name. Amen __man
*READING OF THE WILL
Old Testament Psalm 96:1-3
New Testament
The Gospel

Ephesians 6:19-20
Matthew 28:18-20

Evangelist Jackie Owens, Mt. Tabor
Evangelist Jackie Owens, Mt. Tabor
Evangelist Ernestine Johnson
*DECALOGUE "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"
Gloria Patri - "Glory Be To The Father"
INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER
WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC
*SERMON
INVITATIONAL
GIVING OF OUR TITHES/OFFERING

## Minister Dwayne Wiggins Jr.

Cashapp -https://cash.app/\$LaMottAMEChurch
Or Text the word: lamottame -1888-364-4483(give)follow link You Can Also Drop off your Envelope or Mail
THE PASTOR'S WORD/ANNOUNCEMENTS \& RECOGNITION OF VISITORS
BENEDICTION "Reach out and Touch Somebody's Hand"

Aprili Deborah Williams $6^{\text {th }}$ O'Jetta Croswell $11^{\text {th }}$ Khari Jefferson $17^{\text {th }}$ Roy Moore $19^{\text {th }}$
Isaiah Baylis $21^{\text {st }} \quad$ Alyssa Ruth Ridley $24^{\text {th }} \quad$ Jacob Manley $27^{\text {th }} \quad$ Sis. Kelly Attles $\quad 30^{\text {th }}$

