

Faith That Delights Jesus

During this quarter we've been focusing on why people followed Jesus. During March we identified how Jesus brings hope. During April we identified how Jesus shows us God. And now, during May we'll look at how Jesus brings us life. To get things started off we'll look at two passages (Matthew 15.21-28 and Mark 7.24-30). Here we see a woman approach Jesus with only one thing on her mind ... getting her little daughter help ... relief from the continual torment of being demon possessed. The young girl went from the depressing, never-ending and hopeless state of existence ... to life abundant!

I. Understanding the Background

- A. Matthew 15.28: "Woman, your faith is **great**. Let it be done for you as you want." And from that moment her daughter was healed. What is it that made her faith remarkable or out of the ordinary?
- B. Matthew 15.21: Get away into the region of Tyre and Sidon
- C. Mark 7.24: Jesus needed rest
 1. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it, but he could not escape notice.
 2. The seclusion does not last long: Mark 7.25: Instead, immediately after hearing about him, a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit came and fell at his feet.
- D. How is she described in the text? She is a woman; a Canaanite, and a Syrophenician.
- E. Her little daughter has an unclean spirit and is **severely tormented**... What does "great faith" look like?

II. Great Faith Has the Right Focus

- A. Mark 7.25 - She **fell** at his feet.
 1. She is placing her faith in Christ.
 2. We have to aim properly. Jesus is the only legitimate object for faith.
- B. Great faith always focuses on the right thing.

III. Great Faith Has the Right Attitude

- A. Repentance involves a turning... only Christ can meet her need.
- B. Repentance involves a penitent heart.
 1. Matthew 15.22: "Have **mercy** on me Lord... She knows she has nothing to bring.
 2. She treats Jesus with the greatest dignity.
 3. Two Titles: **Lord** and ... **Son of David**

IV. Great Faith is Persistent

- A. Matthew 15.23a: Jesus did not **say a word** to her. Genuine faith persists through difficulty.
- B. Matthew 15.23b: His disciples approached him and urged him, "Send her away because she is crying out after us." Crying: Think screaming; wailing; yelling.
- C. Matthew 15.24: He replied, "I was only sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." She's not deterred at all.
- D. Mark 7.25 NASB: But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, **help me!**"
- E. Mark 7.26: And he answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." This is another barrier. Jesus is not being vicious here. He's testing her faith.
- F. Matthew 15.27: "Yes Lord, she said, "yet even the **dogs** eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." She's sharp. She picks up on what Jesus says and runs with it.

V. The Outcome of Her Faith...

- A. Mark 7:29-30: Then he told her, "Because of this reply, you may go. The demon has left your daughter." When she went back to her home, she found her child lying on the bed, and the demon was **gone**.
- B. Her little daughter was completely restored.

VI. As We Close..

- A. Jesus gives us life. Here he takes a little girl ... in torment and dismay ... and restores her to her former quality of life. Jesus gives life to those with great faith.
- B. What does great faith look like? It looks like this woman's faith. Do you have this type of faith?