

Sermon Discussion Questions | **Series:** Matthew Part 4: Week 6

Date: November 13 & 15, 2026 I **Passage:** Matthew 15:21-31

BIG IDEA: Jesus is worth pursuing; and He will be had by anyone who does.

Icebreaker: Have you ever pursued something that was really difficult but worth the effort in the end? What kept you going when you wanted to quit?

Read Matthew 15:21-31 together.

Observe: What does the Scripture say?

Q1: In verses 21–22, what do you notice about the Canaanite woman's approach to Jesus? What does her request reveal about her situation and her understanding of who Jesus is?

Q2: What specific obstacles or resistance does the woman encounter as she pursues Jesus in this passage? How does she respond?

Understand: What does it mean?

Q3: The passage contrasts the Pharisees' self-sufficiency with the woman's desperation. Why is recognizing our need for Jesus so important? What makes spiritual self-sufficiency so dangerous?

Q4: The woman continued pursuing Jesus even when He initially seemed silent and His response was difficult to understand. What does her response teach us about genuine faith? What is the difference between pursuing Jesus and simply expecting Him to give us what we want?

Q5: How does this encounter with the Canaanite woman fit into the broader story Matthew is telling about Jesus? What does it reveal about who Jesus came to save and how God's plan of salvation extends beyond Israel?

Respond: How should we live?

Q6: Where are you currently experiencing resistance, disappointment, or silence in your relationship with God? What would it look like to keep pursuing Jesus in that area rather than losing faith?

Q7: Are there areas of your life where you're trying to maintain an image of having everything together rather than honestly admitting your need for Jesus or asking others for help? How might God be calling you to respond?

Close by praying together, inviting God to meet you in your places of desperation, deepen your dependence on Him, and give you the faith to keep pursuing Him even when the way forward feels difficult.