



Prince of Peace Church

12th Sunday After Pentecost, August 16, 2026

“Undeserving”

Scriptures for Reference: Matthew 15:21-28

1. **Read Matthew 15:21–24.** Notice where Jesus goes and who approaches Him. Historically, the cities of Tyre and Sidon were Israel's "bitterest enemies" (home to Queen Jezebel, allies against the Jews, and notorious for hostility). What is the woman's immediate cry to Jesus, and how do the disciples react to her presence in verse 23? What does their reaction reveal about how they viewed her?
2. **Read Matthew 15:25–28.** Jesus speaks a parable-like statement about "taking the children's bread and tossing it to the dogs" (a term referring to household pets). Look closely at verse 27. How does the Canaanite woman respond to Jesus' statement? What posture does she take, and what does she actually ask for?
3. **In the sermon, we saw that Jesus' silence and dialogue were largely meant as a mirror for the disciples. Israel was originally chosen in Deuteronomy 7 & 9 not because they were great or righteous, but purely by God's unearned mercy so they could be a "kingdom of priests" to the nations (Exodus 19:5–6).** How had the disciples converted their unearned covenant grace into exclusive privilege? Why were the disciples—who hoarded grace and wanted to "send her away"—actually just as "undeserving of mercy" as the pagan woman?
4. **The Canaanite woman didn't demand her rights; she simply cast herself on the Master's infinite generosity, knowing that even a "crumb" of His grace was enough. Read Philippians 2:5–8.** How did Jesus—the only true Son who deserved a seat at the Father's table—surrender His divine privilege on the cross? How does knowing that Jesus was "cast outside the gate" for us redefine how we view our own standing before God?
5. **During the sermon, we considered how easy it is for church people to look at someone in pain or deep brokenness and secretly think, "I wish they would go away; they have too many problems."** When you look at your neighborhood, workplace, or community, what kind of person or group (e.g., the politically opposed, the messy, the emotionally needy, the secular skeptic) do you most easily view as an "inconvenience" rather than someone made in God's image who needs mercy?
6. **Because we have eaten the unearned "crumbs" of God's grace, we lose the right to look down on anyone or hoard our comfort.** What is one practical way you can use your time, status, or resources this week to extend God's mercy to an "outsider" or a hurting person instead of protecting your own peace?