

January 24th – Faith That Won't Be Denied

"But He answered and said, 'It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.' And she said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.'"
(Matt. 15:26-27)

One of our biggest problems is that we often give up too soon. When the food isn't very satisfying, we give up on diets. When the early mornings and hard work get a little intense, we give up on the exercise. When the long nights of study get wearisome, we give up on school. The old saying is that the greatest darkness is just before the dawn. That might be the case, but too often we miss the sunset because we're not willing to persevere in the midst of the night.

Up until the 15th chapter of Matthew, the ministry of Jesus had been directed primarily at His own people Israel. He even said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt. 15:24). But there was a Gentile woman who was willing to believe that Jesus was the all-powerful Messiah he claimed to be. She had a daughter that was severely demon-possessed and she sought the help of Jesus because she believed He could exorcise her daughter's demons.

Jesus tested the Gentile woman's faith – "it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." Of course, Jesus was not calling the woman a dog, but indicating that up until now His message had been dedicated to the Jews, not the Gentiles. The woman did not give up – "even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from the master's table." Because of her unwavering faith, Jesus marveled and healed the Gentile woman's daughter. Today, believe God CAN do all things and don't give up until He intervenes!