

**FAITH FOR
FAMILY CRISIS**

MATTHEW 15:21-28

Matthew 15:21-28

21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.

22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

Matthew 15:21-28 - continued

24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Introduction

A. Faith's great importance

1. Faith in Christ saves the soul

1 Peter 1:9

Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

2. Faith brings answers to prayer

James 5:15

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Introduction

A. Faith's great importance - continued

3. Faith drives away anxiety

John 14:1

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

4. Faith pleases God

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Introduction

B. Faith's greatest test

1. When a loved one is afflicted

Matthew 17:15

Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.

2. Family crisis drives us to our knees

I. The Dilemma Of A Mother (15:22)

A. The Gentile mother's problem

1. A demon-possessed daughter

2. A desperate situation that is beyond her

3. How long do we endure before we cry out for help?

I. The Dilemma Of A Mother (15:22)

B. This Gentile mother's prayer

1. She accepted her undeserving state

Luke 18:13

And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

2. She accepted the deity of Christ

3. She acknowledged He could deliver her daughter

II. The Delay In The Lord's Answer (15:23)

A. Here is faith under fire

Psalm 102:1-2

1 Hear my prayer, O LORD, and let my cry come unto thee.

2 Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble; incline thine ear unto me: in the day when I call answer me speedily.

B. Has God seemed silent when you prayed recently?

II. The Delay In The Lord's Answer (15:23)

C. This desperate woman kept on crying out for help

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Pray without ceasing.

Luke 18:1b

... that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

D. We need to cry out for our children

Lamentations 2:19

Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the LORD: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street.

III. The Disgust Of The Disciples (15:23)

“Send her way”

- A. We may be bothered by those who have more faith than we do**

- B. We may be annoyed by those who are more persistent in prayer**

III. The Disgust Of The Disciples (15:23)

C. We have more of the world in us that we think

Matthew 20:30-31

30 And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David.

31 And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David.

IV. The Dimensions Of The Woman's Faith

A. She was a Gentile, a woman of Canaan

Ephesians 2:12-14

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

IV. The Dimensions Of The Woman's Faith

B. She believed Jesus was more powerful than the Devil

C. She was able to see beyond seeming rejection

D. She understood Jesus better than the disciples

1. She took the humble place

2. Her faith in Christ demanded she keep praying

**The Lord Answered This Troubled
Woman's Prayer**