



**TWO
HANDED
FAITH**

Matthew
15:21-28

What Is Jesus Doing?



Matthew 15:21

It's Been A Long Week

- Thursday, hard news then Bread of Life
- Friday morning, prayer then watery faith
- Friday afternoon, healing many
- Sabbath, in the Synagogue with Pharisees

Strategic Withdrawal

- He withdrew, 22
- He wanted privacy, Mk 7:24
- It's good to rest
- Also, Jesus is on a mission trip
- He is teaching His disciples

How Far Will Jesus Reach?



Matthew 15:22

A Most Unlikely Saint

- She is Canaanite, of the enemies of God
- From a broken people, having no country
- From a broken family
 - She comes alone; where is her husband?
- From a severely demonized home

She Admits Her Problem

- She learned about God, Mt 11:21; Mk 3:7
- She left her idolatrous home to come out
- She admits her need of mercy; humble
 - Not, “I deserve...”
 - Not, “look at my righteous deeds...”
 - Not, “God, how dare You?!?”

She Believes In The Right Person

- Faith must have a valid object
- She came out to Jesus
- She unashamedly called on Him loudly
- Have mercy: she knows He is good
- O Lord: she knows He is God
- Son of David: she knows He is mighty

What Does It Look Like To Persevere?



Matthew 15:22-27

Remain Steadfast Under Trial

- Faith means you love Jesus, Jas 1:12
- Even when God is silent, 23
- Even when the disciples condemn you
 - Why do you want to send her away?
- Even when the answer is confusing, 24

Pharisaic Formulations

- The disciples are a bit leavened, 16:12
- Only to the lost sheep of Israel? 24
 - His teaching, Jn 10:16; Mt 12:39
 - His history, Centurion faith, Mt 8:5-13
 - His action here: mission trip, great faith
- Who are the dogs? 26 (Phil 3:2-3)
 - Unholy, uncaring towards value, violent, 7:6

Leaning In To Jesus

- She approached Him more closely, 25
- She humbled herself
 - *Proskuneo*, she worshipped, to kiss toward
 - She knelt down on all four, like a dog
- She honored Christ Jesus as Lord
- She maintained her request: help me

Faith In Hard Times

- Like John Bunyan imprisoned for refusing to stop preaching the pure Gospel
- Like William Cowper battling despair and writing the hymns of the faith
- Like David Brainerd whose body broke as he loved other Gentile sinners

Faith In Hard Times

- Like Jacob, not letting go until He blesses
- Like the woman asking the unjust judge
- Like the neighbor knocking for bread
- Like praying for Peter's release from jail
- Like Paul and Silas singing as the earth shook
- Like Elijah, praying and looking for rain

Faith In Hard Times

And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?

Luke 18:7-8

Leaning In To Jesus, Again

- Modifying the Pharisaic formula: it's not proper to give to household pets first, 26
- She agrees with Jesus: Yes Lord, 27
- I'd rather be a dog with Jesus
 - And be loved by my Master
 - And be satisfied with the overflow of His abundance
 - And dwell in the House of the Lord forever

What Is The Heart Of Jesus?



Matthew 15:28

Jesus Loves Her

- O woman! Great is your faith!
- Be it done for you as you desire
 - Do your desires align with Christ's?
- Jesus had already healed her soul
- Now He heals her daughter
- And, in a little while, she would be in glory

Jesus Loves Her

For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:26-28



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