

April Teaching Series

THE FAITH OF THE CANAANITE WOMAN

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Chairman, Prayerline

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“Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession.” **Jesus did not answer a word.** So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.” He answered, **“I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”** The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said. He replied, **“It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to their dogs.”** “Yes, Lord,” she said, “but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered, **“Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.”**

-Matthew 15:21-28
NIV

- ☉ The primary purpose of prayer is not to change God but us, and if we are not prepared to change, there is nothing to say.
- ☉ The only way God can bring somebody to a new level of faith is to challenge their present level. When the woman heard nothing from Jesus, she turned to the disciples. We are prone to do this when God is silent, we turn to others for help only to find out they were not helpful at all. “Let’s get rid of this woman”. But Jesus did not answer their request either (Because Jesus is not an expert in sending away people empty handed).

Second (2nd) Response of Jesus:

- ☉ He appeals to His official mission
- ☉ His mission is to the household of Israel,
- ☉ He does only what he is sent to do;
- ☉ He does not want to exceed it.
- ☉ First time of Jesus to set a demarcation line.
- ☉ From walking position to standing position she now knelt before Jesus, saying “Lord help me!”. At this time she realized that it’s not just her daughter who needs healing but she herself as well. God wants to save this woman too.

Third (3rd) response of Jesus:

- ☉ The Canaanite woman is not put off by this insult and by his silence and rejection which she all suffered. SHE ANSWERS IN EFFECT, “LORD, YOU ARE RIGHT. But have you thought of the possibility? I am not asking for the food of the children, not for a loaf of bread either. Only the crumbs that fall off from their table are enough for me.”
- ☉ What about you? If the crumbs satisfies, what about the whole bread. By what God did on the cross of Calvary, He entitled us to receive the so-called “children’s bread”, and it is JESUS! NO MORE NO LESS, CAUSE HE SATISFIES.
- ☉ Let us come to Him. How do you see Jesus? Do you only expect crumbs from Him? We are his people. Let us release our faith in Him that we may experience His many wonders and miracles. Sometimes there are delays but it does not mean denials.
- ☉ IF WE HAVE THE FAITH, HE WILL RESPOND TO THE NEED NO MATTER WHO MAY ASK.
- ☉ IN FAITH EVERYBODY IS EQUAL; NO PERSON IS ABOVE THE OTHER.
- ☉ FAITH SEES NO BOUNDARIES.
- ☉ “I WILL OPEN WIDE MY MOUTH AND YOU WILL FILL IT” (Psalm 81:10)