

HONEST PAYERS

Lord, Help Me! Matthew 15:21-28

A Mother's Desperate Cry

Matthew 15:21-22 (KJV) 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.

- Jesus went to the coast of Tyre and Sidon for rest and relaxation
- A Canaanite woman from the area comes to Jesus and cries *Have mercy on me, O Lord, Thou Son of David*, my daughter is vexed, troubled, possessed by the devil
- She is a Canaanite, a non-Jew, therefore this information about Jesus is not based on *relationship*
- The woman's situation is *desperate*, and she does not mind calling on a person she doesn't know very well, but has *faith* in Jesus based on *reputation* alone
- She searched all over, couldn't find anyone greater than Jesus
- She was coming to Jesus as an *intercessor* for her daughter
- Her daughter's problem has become *her problem*
- Although my daughter is being vexed, attacked by the devil, she is *still* my daughter
- She refused to give up on her daughter
- She continued to call, *Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David*
- Sometimes it takes the *right problem* for us to call on the *right name*
- Other names can't do what calling on the name of Jesus can do ***Acts 4:12 (KJV)***¹²
Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Jesus, Have Mercy on Me!

Matthew 15:21-22(KJV) 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.

- The Canaanite woman asks Jesus to *have mercy* on her
- She deserved nothing from Jesus, and she knows it
- The Canaanite woman was asking for favor she did not deserve
- Her request was short, humble, full of faith and relying on the mercy of God
- Why didn't she say *Have mercy on my daughter*, that's being attacked by the devil?
- The Canaanite woman was saying the attack by the devil on my daughter is hurting me, too
- She also recognizes before she can be of any help to her daughter, she needs help herself
- Tell Jesus now, Lord *Have mercy on me!*

HONEST PAYERS

Lord, Help Me! Matthew 15:21-28

The Power of Persistence

[23] But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. [24] But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

- If there was a situation that you'd think Jesus would respond quickly, it would be the cries of a mother who needs help for her child
- **Jesus did not answer the woman**
 - It looks like Jesus is ignoring her, but He is actually giving her an opportunity to *exercise* her faith
 - Will you keep calling on Jesus when He does not answer right away?
- **The disciples said send her away because she kept calling and asking Jesus for mercy**
 - In Mark's account this story she was literally following Jesus around
 - The disciples told Jesus to send her away because she is crying after "us"
 - It wasn't "us", it was *Jesus* she was after
- Jesus responds to the woman and tells her He was *only* sent to the lost sheep of Israel
- A lot of people would have been either discouraged or offended and walked away
- It looks like Jesus is being difficult, He is actually helping her understand who He is
- What would you do?
- Can you continue to persist in the face of *silence, opposition, and discouragement?*

Lord, Help Me!

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

- Instead of getting offended, this mother that was concerned about her daughter knelt down and *worshipped* Jesus
- Worship is always acceptable to God
- Even though the Canaanite woman knew Jesus by ***reputation*** and not ***relationship***, she knew He was He is worthy of ***reverence***
- This Canaanite woman kneels down and cries, *Lord help me!*
- This Canaanite woman prays just three words, *Lord help me!*
- The Canaanite woman doesn't pray, "Lord, help my daughter", but "Lord help me!"
- The Canaanite woman *needs* the Lord's *help* to keep praying, keep believing, to keep the faith in Jesus when there is no answer
- This Canaanite woman is completely *helpless*, yet *dependent* on Jesus
- When God doesn't answer your prayer about a particular need immediately, it's likely that God is working to *deepen* your faith
- Be like this Canaanite woman we must keep praying, Lord, help me!

The Power of Humility

[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.

HONEST PAYERS

Lord, Help Me! Matthew 15:21-28

- Jesus says it's not right to take the children's bread and give it to dogs
- Did Jesus just call the woman "a dog"?
- There are two Greek words for dog
 - One word relates to "wild dogs" that were vicious, they rummaged through the trash and ran in packs and another word for dog relates to a "little dog", like a *house pet*
 - *Jesus is talking about a dog that is a house pet*
- Jesus is testing her again by saying what I have is for the children of Israel, not the dogs, i.e., *not* the Gentiles or non-Jews
- But this Canaanite woman is not going away, she tells Jesus, *yet even the dogs get the crumbs*
- What the Canaanite woman was saying, I'll accept the dog label if you do for me what families do for their house pets, let some crumbs fall from the table
- This mother asking for what a "dog" could expect from its master
- What she was doing was giving Jesus *His* words back to Him
- If I can't have bread because it belongs to others, just give me what is *unclaimed, leftover*, I'll just take the crumbs
- This Canaanite woman knows, *whatever* is in the bread is *also* in the crumbs
- Whatever the bread can do, the crumbs can do, too!
- The Canaanite woman was not choosey, but *any way* Jesus would bless her and her daughter, she'd be satisfied!
- This Canaanite woman is exhibiting *unwavering* faith

Jesus Rewards Great Faith

[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.

- Jesus said O, woman great is your faith
- The hindrances this mother encountered only *increased* her faith in Jesus
- Jesus said, "Be it done for you as you desire"
- Jesus proves He has power over the devil, so much power that He didn't have to be *present* to physically to heal her
- Your need may be right here or the other side of the world, it doesn't matter when you place *great faith* in a *great God*
- This mother's faith was *great* because:
 - It was *unlikely*
 - She *worshipped* Jesus even *before* she had an answer from Him
 - It *withstood severe testing*
 - It was *clever*
 - She would not *give up*
- This woman's great faith in Jesus changed *her life* and *the life of her daughter*
- This persistent praying and persevering faith is not just for mothers, it's for *us* as well