

Crumbs from the Lord's Table

Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

A. Matt. 15:21-28

I. THE WOMAN'S PETITION - Vs. 21-22

- A. The reason she came: she was concerned for the wellbeing of another
- B. The reason she cried out: she was heartbroken over the condition of her child and was determined to get her child the help she needed.
- C. The reason she called out persistently: Because of faith and hope in her.
 - 1. She needed something society had not been able to provide.
 - 2. She was looking for something that her dead religion was powerless to give her.
 - 3. She needed a solution that she had not been able to provide by her own efforts.
 - 4. She saw Jesus as her only hope
- D. Don't be afraid to call on Him; He invites you to come to Him
 - 1. Matt. 11:28; Isa. 55:1-3; 1Peter 5:7; Heb. 4:15-16

II. THE WOMAN'S PERSISTENCE - Vs. 23-27

- A. Obstacles to faith
 - 1. She had to overcome Race - She was a Syro-Phoenician; a Gentile from Tyre and Sidon. Canaanite by birth, religion, and upbringing. She was from a region known for vile religious practices.
 - 2. She had to overcome Religion - She came to Jesus and called out to Him and said, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David" - a Gentile mother crying out to the Jewish Messiah.
 - a. She had no right to come to Jesus through the door of Judaism. She was a Gentile and He gave her the response she deserved: "He answered her not a word," verse 23.
 - 3. She had to overcome Racism - The disciples react by telling Jesus to send her away. They wanted nothing to do with her. She was not one of their people.
 - 4. She had to overcome Rejection - As Jesus speaks to this woman, His words appear harsh to our ears. His words must have shaken her.
 - 5. She had to overcome Reality -
 - a. Her daughter was possessed by a devil.
 - b. She was a member of a doomed race.
 - c. These religious men did not seem to care about her or her situation at all.
 - 6. John 6:37
- B. The Opportunities of Faith
 - 1. Jesus never slams the door of hope in her face.
 - 2. Mark 7:27 - She took that to mean that "seconds" were available.
 - 3. The obstacles thrown up by the Lord Jesus were not to discourage and defeat her. They were there to mature her faith.

C. The Obligations of Faith

1. She persisted because too much was at stake. Her daughter needed to be healed. She needed help and she was determined to get it. A crumb might have been all she could get; but she knew that a crumb from the hand of Jesus would be more than enough
2. Faith is obligated to persevere - Matt. 7:7-8

III. THE WOMAN'S PRIZE - Vs. 28

A. Jesus responded to her faith

1. He tested her faith with hard words and her faith and it exceeded that of the people He came to save
2. Here was a Gentile dog that had more faith than the Jewish scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees and priests.

B. Jesus rewarded her faith

1. He rewarded her faith by giving her exactly what she asked for.
2. Her faith was so strong that she didn't ask for proof, but she took Jesus at His word and turned around and went home to her family.

C. You say, "Preacher, you don't understand how big my problem is." "It's too big to be fixed by prayer."

1. No I don't know how big it is, but He does

D. Name something He cannot fix.

1. Jairus places his daughter in the hand of Jesus and Jesus raises her from the dead.
2. Lazarus, four days in the tomb. Mary and Martha leave it in Jesus hands and Lazarus lives.
3. There is a multitude that needs to be fed, but they have no food. A few loaves and fishes are placed in the hands of Jesus, and suddenly everyone had more than enough.
4. The disciples are in a boat, in a storm, in the middle of the lake, in the dead of night. They are afraid they are going to die. They place themselves in Jesus' care and they arrive safely to the shore.
5. A leper is healed.
6. A man born blind can see.
7. A deaf man can hear.
8. A crippled man can walk.
9. A man possessed with a demon is freed.
10. Jesus is hanging on a cross, dead. They take His body down and place it in the grave. For three days there is nothing. Hope is gone and it appears that evil has won. But He lives
11. If we believe He can do these things, then He can certainly answer our prayers according to His wisdom and power

E. A little crumb from the Lord's Table might be all you need today. Others may need Him to send down a whole platter of bread. I don't know what you need or where you are today; but I know a God Who can meet you where you are and help you get what you need today.