



O Woman, Great Is Thy Faith

“O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt” (Matthew 15:28).

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Had Jesus ministered in one place, some would never have been touched by His ministry. His ever increasing ministry had now come to the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, where a gentile woman, accessed deliverance for her daughter.

“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. 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” (Matthew 15:21-28) (+ see Mark 7:24-30).

This miracle teaches us the following:

- 1) A Syrophenician Greek “woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts” (vs 21; Mark 7:26). The needy may not always be able to access their needed help if it is very remote. Had Jesus not come into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, this woman would probably not have had the chance of accessing deliverance for her daughter.
- 2) The woman fell at the feet of Jesus and cried unto Him “Have mercy on me... my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil” (Matthew 15:22; Mark 7:25). We must ask in order to receive answers. Note that she was specific in her request.
- 3) Her requests met with ‘obstacles’ on her path to answered prayers. First was the silence of Jesus; second was the rejection by the disciples (vs 23); third was a negative answer

“And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter” (Mark 7:29).

from Jesus (vs24); and fourth was a potentially offensive classification as a “dog” (vs 26).

- 4) Her faith shone through the ‘obstacles’ by her attitude and responses. When Jesus was silent she continued to cry for help, which became the reason for the disciples’ request to Jesus to send her away - “for she crieth after us” (vs 23), but she persevered. Then in response to an apparent negative response from Jesus she retained her focus as she “worshipped him, saying, Lord help me” (vs 25). This climaxed at her smart positive response to an apparent classification as a dog - “Truth lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table” (vs 27).
- 5) Jesus’ response “Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children’s bread, and to cast it unto the dogs” (Mark 7:27) was not a denial but a divine revelation that the priority of healing is firstly for “the children” before the rest of the people.
- 6) Her humble but faith filled response secured her the miracle she wanted as her daughter was made whole from that very hour (vs. 28).
- 7) “O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt” (vs 28). The exercise of great faith produces what “thou wilt”.
- 8) “And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed” (Mark 7:30). Distance is not a problem to the working of God’s power. The woman did not bring her daughter to Jesus. The daughter was at home, when Jesus remotely declared her whole. On return home, the woman found confirmation of the healing.