

A Faith That is Pleasing (Mark 7:24-30; Matthew 15:21-28)

- Bible records these joyous words from Jesus ‘Women, you have great faith’
- Few people of all those mentioned in the Bible are commended for their faith
- This is a wonderful story of a faith that so delighted the Lord Jesus
- Jesus came from another altercation with the Pharisees over ritual uncleanness
- In contrast, he meets an unclean Syrophenician woman with trusting faith
- He holds up her precious faith to encourage all to hope in the Gospel (v.24-26)
- Matthew tells us as well that she was a Canaanite woman, a Gentile dog at that

I. The Woman’s Persistent Faith (Mark 7: 27,28; Matt 15:23-25)

- 7: 25 “she fell at Jesus’ feet” “she begged Jesus to drive out of her daughter”(26)
- Continuous tense “she kept on begging” she would not be denied (Matt 15:22)
- It seems as if Jesus was quite indifferent to the woman’s continuous begging
- Jesus’ silence was a silence of love; this way he drew her faith out for all to see
- Remarkably she kept begging to the agitation & annoyance of the disciples (23)
- She even persisted when Jesus seemed to speak words of rejection (Matt 15:24)
- But not even Jesus’ mention of Jewish exclusiveness could deter her(Matt 15:25)
- The term used for dog (Mk7: 27) showed a softening in Jesus’ response to her
- She clung to that, that even a house dog under the table is fed by its master (28)
- Luther says, ‘she catches Jesus with his own words’ and He wanted her to do that

II The Woman’s Humble Faith (7:25, 27, 28)

- It was not her persistence that won Christ’s ear & then His healing power
- Her persistence only proves that she had authentic faith that would not let go
- She knew she was a Gentile dog, not a child of the household, she had no merit
- David said it well, when he said, these are the sacrifices God is seeking (Ps 51:17)

III. The Woman’s Trusting Faith (7:27,28)

- The woman’s faith was great because she took Christ at His Word
- For that she became part of Christ’s prophetic words recorded in Matt 8:11,12
- It was faith in Christ that caused her to believe His word & persistently trust Him
- The result of such trusting and persisting faith is clearly seen by its reward (7:29)
- In addition, there was Christ’s eternal commendation: “Woman, you have great faith” (Matt 15: 28)