

Matthew 15:21-31
Just a Crumb Please

From begging for a scrap ...

- I. A Cry of Desperation
 - A. A Canaanite Woman
 - B. At the Feet of Jesus
- II. A Shocking Response
 - A. Jesus & His Disciples
 - B. Jesus & the Woman
- III. The Merciful Lord
 - A. Deliverance
 - B. Glorifies Israel's God

... to feasting at a banquet.

Children, Listen ...

1. Why was the Canaanite woman so upset?
2. What did she want Jesus to do?
3. What did she do when it seemed like He was not going to help?
4. What did Jesus do for her?

Dogs Aren't Children

The Canaanite woman's situation is desperate as she shares an unimaginable burden with her daughter who is dreadfully demon possessed. Jesus just "happens" to be in her neighborhood, so she seizes the opportunity to plead with Him for help only to be met with what me might *feel* is a shocking response from the Lord. It *seems* as though she is first ignored, then rejected, and then she *appears* to be insulted by Jesus Himself! But it turns out that the delay in Jesus' response and His comment to her, is not after all cruel, but a means to bring her tremendous faith to the surface for all to see. Her persistence and her humility in turn, turns the spotlight on the One in whom she is resting her faith as Jesus shows mercy by delivering her daughter after all. We may be perplexed at times by delayed or seemingly unanswered prayers, but we can be sure that God's ways are good and that He is attentive to the cries of those who believe in Him. He responds to us with mercy, measured out according to His wisdom and in His perfect timing. Just think, she came very much aware that she wasn't worthy of a crumb of grace - only to discover that her merciful Lord would supply her with a feast of goodness from the abundance of His love! She was not dog ... she was a child of the living God!