

**MATTHEW:
THE GOSPEL
OF THE KINGDOM**

Beggarly Faith
Matthew 15:21-28



JESUS' RETREAT (21)

And Jesus went away from there
and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

A PAGAN'S CRY (22)

And behold, a Canaanite woman from that
region came out and was crying,
“Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David;
my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.”



JESUS' FIRST RESPONSE (23)

But he did not answer her a word.

THE DISCIPLES' REQUEST (23)

And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us."

JESUS' SECOND RESPONSE (24)

He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

HER CONTINUED CRY (25)

But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."

JESUS' THIRD RESPONSE (26)

And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

HER PREVAILING CRY (27)

She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

JESUS' CLIMACTIC REPOSE (28)

Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire."

And her daughter was healed instantly.

Application/Participation

- This would have been a potent expression of the universality of the Gospel for Matthew's primarily Jewish readers - leading ultimately to ch.28
- This is an example of God's mysterious way of delay
 - There are those with lesser faith and less clear faith that Jesus responds to immediately
 - What is clear is that the delay and silence was *not* her lack of faith
 - While certainly it does highlight her faith, in the end we really don't know why Jesus delays His response

Application/Participation

- Let us never forget Romans 1:16
For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- For those in the midst of situations where your cries seem unheard...
- For those who are hearing their cries, let us *not* be like the disciples
- A model for our pleading for unconverted children
