

**Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, March 26, 2023**

**Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew**

**Message 85. More Miracles – Matthew 15:21-39**

**Pastor Phillip M Way**

Introduction: If the Pharisees thought that Jesus' disciples were unclean due to their neglect of proper, ceremonial hand washing, imagine their response as Jesus leaves to travel to Gentile territory! As He heads west, He finds great faith with a Canaanite woman and feeds a Gentile crowd. He had not seen such faith in Galilee.

- I. A Little Dog's Great Faith – vs. 21-28
  - A. Tyre and Sidon – see History and Prophecy – Matt. 11:21-22; Ezek. 26:3-6
  - B. Training His Disciples
    1. To the Jew first – Rom. 1:16
    2. Preparing for the Ends of the Earth – Acts 1:8
    3. The Wall of Separation Destroyed – Ephesians 2:12-18
  - C. Testing Her Faith – 1 Peter 1:6-7
    1. Faith In Jesus
      - a. She knew Who He was – “Lord, Son of David” – John 17:3
      - b. She believed He could help
      - c. She was confident enough to persist – Luke 18:1-8
      - d. She appealed to Him for mercy – no entitlement or demands, pleading prayer
    2. Jesus' and the Disciples Respond
      - a. Silence
      - b. Shunning
      - c. Sheep of Israel
      - d. Shaming
        - 1) Give children's bread to “little dogs” – not wild dogs, “house dogs”
        - 2) She replied, “True” – yes indeed, certainly, yet little dogs get scraps
    3. Great Faith! – Matt. 8:10-11; 15:28
      - a. Her daughter's healing was “immediate, perfect, and enduring.” – Spurgeon
      - b. “It is grace, not place, that makes people believers.” – JC Ryle
      - c. “I've never despaired of any man since God saved me.” – John Newton
- II. Loaves and Fishes Feed a Multitude – vs. 29-39
  - A. To the Decapolis – Mark 7:31
    1. Ten Greek cities west of Galilee
    2. Jesus healed and worked miracles among the Gentiles
    3. The people “glorified the God of Israel”
  - B. Compassion for the Hungry Crowd
    1. Moved with compassion – Gk: *splagnidzomai*
    2. Seven loaves and a few fish
    3. Fed and filled
    4. One basket of leftovers for each original loaf = 7
  - C. The little you have is much in His hands!

## **History and Prophecy – Ezekiel 26:3-6**

Presently located at the town of Sur in southern Lebanon. The little village that exists in this place is nothing like the great and grand nation of Tyre described in Scripture.

Built on an island about a half mile from land, and also with a city on the coast.

Colonists from Tyre founded Carthage.

Hiram, King of Tyre, provided material for the building of Solomon's Temple.

Jezebel, King Ahab's queen, was the daughter of Ethbaal, the King of Tyre and high priest of Baal.

Subjected to Assyria under Sennacherib in 701, but recovered in 630 BC.

Babylon destroyed the coastal city but could not overthrow the island fortress. Nebuchadnezzar tried for 13 years! (586 to 573 BC).

In 332 BC Alexander the Great spent 7 months using the rubble of the coastal town to build a causeway to the island. The people of Tyre sent their children and elderly to Carthage but were prevented from escaping by ships from a multitude of nations that arrived to help Alexander. When he took the city he flattened it, killed 10,000 and sent 30,000 onto slavery. The causeway was never removed and now what was the island is the end of a peninsula where fishermen dry their nets on the flat rocks.

## **Cross References**

### **Matthew 11:21-22**

21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.

### **Ezekiel 26:3-6**

3 "Therefore thus says the Lord God: 'Behold, I am against you, O Tyre, and will cause many nations to come up against you, as the sea causes its waves to come up. 4 And they shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. 5 It shall be a place for spreading nets in the midst of the sea, for I have spoken,' says the Lord God; 'it shall become plunder for the nations. 6 Also her daughter villages which are in the fields shall be slain by the sword. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.'

### **Romans 1:16**

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

### **Acts 1:8**

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

### **Ephesians 2:12-18**

12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace,

who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

### **1 Peter 1:6-7**

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

### **John 17:3**

3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

### **Luke 18:1-8**

18 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, 2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. 3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' 4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' " 6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

### **Matthew 8:10-11**

10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! 11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

### **Matthew 15:28**

28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

### **Mark 7:31**

31 Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee.