

Great Stories of the Bible - 05/01/22

The Syrophenician Woman

TEXT- Matthew 15:21-28 *Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord,*

INTRO – Called in Mark “a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation.” Living in Syria and from Phoenecia and a Canaanite.

She was a young mother – Her light is a pitiful picture of one in distress. **Tyre and Sidon were merchant cities along the Mediterranean coast just north of Israel. It was Hiram king of Tyre that provided cedars for Solomon to build the Temple. Jesus compares some of the Israeli cities to Tyre and Sidon.**

Matthew 11:21-22 *Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, 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 unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.*

This Greek woman had a daughter afflicted by demons and she sought Jesus to deliver her of them.

Christ responded to this woman’s plea in four different ways:

first, He was silent;

then He refused;

then He seemed to rebuke her;

and finally He rewarded her faith.

The two people Christ commended for their great faith were both Gentiles

- This woman’s daughter **Mat 8:10**
- The centurion’s servant. **Matthew 8:10** *When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.*

I This Woman Was Desperate

A. Her daughter was in great affliction (Vexed)

Jesus cast out many demons from possessed people. She had heard of His fame and believed He could help her daughter.

Her daughter was vexed – Afflicted and tormented. Often this meant cutting herself, her body flailing around. Falling into the fire and the water. Causing them to be a lunatic with unusual behavior. The mother lived with fear daily that her daughter would kill herself. She was beside herself and willing to do anything for her child.

All men are alienated from God.

Ephesians 2:11-13 *Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye 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: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

B. She had heard Jesus could cast out demons according to Mark Matthew 8:14-16 *And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. 15 And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them. 16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:*

C. She had no right to meet with Jesus (A Greek)

To all other nations they were accustomed to apply terms of contempt, of which dogs was the most common. The term is designed as an expression of the highest contempt. The Saviour means to say that he was sent to the Jews. The woman was a Gentile. He meant merely using a term in common use, and designed to test her faith.

✚ No Man is worthy of His grace.

Romans 7:18 *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

1 Corinthians 2:14 *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

D. She besought Him

John 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

Romans 3:10-12 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

II. This Woman Was Persistent

A. The Disciples are so disturbed by what she is saying that they desire Him earnestly—that they even “beseech” Him—to “send her away”

B. Unrelentingly praying. —“Have mercy,” etc., and “Lord, help me.” Her persistence became more and more intensified as Christ appeared to disregard her case. 1. “He answered her not a word.” 2. He said “I am not sent,” etc. And again, “It is not meet to take the children’s bread,” etc.

The more persistent we are, the more qualified we become to receive help.

Acts 10:31 *And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.*

Luke 11:6-9 *For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? 7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. 8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. 9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*

C. She was humble

She was willing to eat the crumbs the table to the floor

1 Peter 5:5-7 *Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

III. This Woman Received A Miracle For Her Daughter

A. Her daughter was healed and the demon cast out

30 *And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.*

B. Her faith was rewarded

C. She was commended as an example of great faith

CONCL – 1 Peter 5:5 *Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*