



# Spurgeon's Notes on Mark

**7:27-28** - This Syrophenician was a woman of amazing faith. She could not be put off from pleading for her little daughter because she believed Jesus was able to heal all manner of diseases, and she meant to beg him until he yielded to her importunity. Her faith was not hindered by an exclusive doctrine that appeared to confine the blessing to the children of Israel. She might have thought, "Then he is not sent to me. Vainly do I seek for that which he reserves for the Jews."

Her faith was not even hindered by a sense of admitted unworthiness. Jesus spoke of dogs--he meant that the gentiles were to Israel as dogs--she did not at all dispute it, but yielded the point. She felt she was only worthy to be compared to a dog! She did not expect to win the blessing she sought on any merit of her own--she depended on the goodness of Jesus's heart, not on her goodness.

Her faith was not hindered by the tone of Jesus's reply, which for many would have depressed their hope and restrained their prayer. "It isn't right," said Jesus, "it is not becoming, it is not proper, it is hardly lawful to take children's bread and throw it to dogs." His words were enough to pour cold water on the flames of her hope, yet her faith was not quenched. It was a faith of that immortal kind that nothing can kill.

Further, her faith assented to all Jesus said. He said, "Let the children first be filled," and she does not dispute that. She entered into no argument against its being improper to take the bread from the children, the Jews, and give it to the uncircumcised heathen. She never wished Israel to be robbed for her. Dog as she was, she would not have any purpose of God or any propriety of the divine household shifted and changed for her.

That is the faith that saves the soul, that agrees with the mind of God, even if it seemed adverse to herself--the faith that believes the revealed declarations of God whether they appear to be pleasant or terrible--the faith that assents to God's word, whether it is like a balm to its wounds or like a sword to cut and slay.

Not only did she assent to all Jesus said, but she acknowledged him as "Lord". Further, she does not say, "Put me among the children," but she only asks to be treated as a dog is-- "The dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." This woman's argument was based on Jesus's own premises. She does not proceed to lay down new premises or dispute the old ones. She accepts his statement and uses it to vanquish him. All she needed, all she desired, was the crumbs, not the children's bread, only the dog's crumbs.

Finally, her faith won her cause; she gained her desire. Jesus was so delighted with the wise, prudent, humble, but courageous manner in which she answered that he said, "Go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter."