



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of December 28, 2025 (Dr. Robert Plummer)

Matthew 15:21-28

[21] And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. [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." [23] But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." [24] He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." [25] But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." [26] And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." [27] She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." [28] Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

1. Our passage this week revolves around a Canaanite woman who came to Jesus begging for Him to have mercy upon her. Think about the word "mercy". Describe how the woman's cry for mercy reveals the way she viewed herself and Jesus.
2. This woman also referred to Jesus multiple times as "Lord" and also calls Him "the Son of David". How does her use of these terms expand our understanding of this woman and how she viewed Jesus?
3. Jesus' response to the Canaanite woman's desperate plea is silence. How does this make you feel, knowing that God sometimes remains silent to our cries for mercy? In times when we may feel unheard by God, what do we learn from the Canaanite woman?
4. The disciples are bothered by the woman and want her sent away. Jesus finally responds to her plea by saying "*I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*" Does this sound like rejection to you? If so, what do you think most people would do? What was the woman's response (v.25)?
5. Jesus then responds to the woman's second plea for help by saying, "*It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.*" Surely by now the woman should have gotten the hint and just walked away but instead, how does she respond? What is Jesus' surprising response to the woman?
6. What should this story teach us about persevering faith and what should we learn about how we are to approach God when we are suffering?