

The Syro-Phoenician Woman **No. 257**

Introduction.

I. Matthew records this interesting story in the 15th chapter of his gospel. (Matt. 15:21-28).

21 And Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And behold, a Canaanite woman came out from that region, and began to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed." 23 But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came to Him and kept asking Him, saying, "Send her away, for she is shouting out after us." 24 But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." 25 But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" 26 And He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." 27 But she said, "Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." 28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, your faith is great; be it done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once.

II. Matthew here tells us Jesus and His disciples crossing the northern border of Palestine into the district of Tyre and Sidon.

A. This is the only time, recorded in scriptures, that Jesus went outside the borders of Palestine except when, as an infant, He was carried into Egypt by his parents.

B. It is while He is there that the Syro-Phoenician or Canaanite woman pleads with Jesus and receives a great blessing.

III. Let us study some of the great lessons we learn from this remarkable Gentile woman who was tested to the limits by Jesus.

I. **Recognized The Lordship Of Jesus** - This woman recognized the Lordship of Jesus.

A. Though a Gentile, she had undoubtedly heard of the mighty works of Jesus, and she set about to obtain help from Him.

B. **She addressed Jesus as, "O Lord, Son of David."** (Matt. 15:22a).

1. She believed Jesus was the illustrious descendent of king David.

2. She likely believed He was the Jewish Messiah and believed He had great miraculous power.

C. **Jesus is indeed "Lord."**

1. He is the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the King of Kings, and Lord of lords according to Isaiah 9:6 and other scriptures.
2. **Each of us should recognize Jesus was much more than a mere man.** He was not even a angel or an angel at all. He was Deity in the flesh. (Matt. 1:23; Jn.1:14; Gal. 4:4).
 - a. **Peter** had it right at Caesarea Philippi. (Matt. 16:16).
 - b. **Nathaniel** had it right. (Jn. 1:49).
 - c. **Thomas** had it right when he said. (Jn. 20:28).

II. **Worshipful Reverence** - This woman had a worshipful reverence for Jesus.

A. **She knelt before Jesus and worshiped Him.** (Matt. 15:25).

B. **Some have questioned if it is right to worship Jesus.**

1. **Jesus shows it is right** to worship Him. This woman worshiped Him and Jesus gave no resistance.
2. **The scriptures teach us that it is right** to worship Jesus who was Deity.
 - a. **Here are just a few scriptures that show it is right to worship Jesus.** (Matt. 2:1, 2, 11; 14:33; Jn. 12:12, 13; Matt. 28:9).
 - b. Here are more scriptures showing it is proper to worship the glorious Jesus.

Phil. 4:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Rev 4:10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."

Rev 5:11 And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and

might and honor and glory and blessing."

REV 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; **10** and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

3. Yes, it is proper and right to worship God's Son - the Lord and Savior of the world.

<p>All hail the power of Jesus' name!</p> <p>1. Let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all. Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.</p> <p>2. Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall, hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all. Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.</p>	<p>3. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall, go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all. Go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.</p> <p>4. Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball, to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all. To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all</p>	<p>5. Crown him, ye martyrs of your God, who from his altar call; extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown him Lord of all. Extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown him Lord of all.</p> <p>6. O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall! We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all. We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.</p>
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III. A Lesson On Humility - This Syro-Phoenician woman teaches us a lesson on humility.

- A. She humbly came to Jesus and pleaded for mercy for her demon possessed daughter. (Matt. 15:22).
- B. To test her faith Jesus did not answer her a word, but was absolutely silent to her request. (Matt. 15:23a).
- C. The disciples were irritated that this woman was pestering Jesus and said. (Matt. 15:23).
- D. Jesus said to disciples. (Matt. 15:24).
- E. Matthew records the great humility of this woman. After all of this she said. (Matt. 15:25).
- F. Once again Jesus tests her by saying. (Matt. 15:26).
- G. Most people would have been highly insulted by the response of Jesus and would have gotten mad and given up, but not this humble woman.
 - 1. She gives an answer that no one expects.
 - 2. She said. (Matt. 15:27).
 - 3. She does not deny she is a "dog" (a Gentile), but says the dogs eat the crumbs "which fall from their master's table." **Wow! What humility this woman possessed.**
- H. **Jesus taught we must have this humility.** (Matt. 5:3; 18:3,4; 20:27, 28).

1. The importance of humility is taught most vividly in John 13.
2. Only those with this great humility are acceptable to the Lord and will be saved.

IV. A Lesson On Faith And Persistence - This woman teaches us a lesson on faith and persistence.

A. **She had immense faith in Jesus.** She believed with all her heart that Jesus could heal her sick daughter. She was determined to see her daughter healed. She knew that though her daughter was not present and this would be a long distance healing it posed no problem for Jesus.

B. **Jesus was greatly impressed with her faith.** (Matt. 15:28).

1. **Observe Jesus said the woman had “great faith.”**

2. The greatness of her faith is seen her unwavering faith in Jesus’ power to heal. Nothing discouraged her from persistently seeking the healing of his daughter.

C. **Today we need the great faith of the Canaanite woman.**

1. Great faith is a faith that **recognizes the greatness of Jesus.** We are nothing by ourselves, but we can do great things through Jesus. (Phil. 4:13).

2. Great faith is a faith that will **do what the Lord requires** and will not give up or be discouraged no matter what the problems or obstacles might be. (Lk. 6:46).

3. Great faith is a faith that will **be rewarded.**

a. This woman’s daughter was healed because of her faith. (Matt 15:28).

b. Great faith will bring bountiful blessing from the Lord to our lives.

1) It leads to **material blessings.**

2) It leads to **salvation.** (1 Jn. 5:4).

Conclusion

I. The Syro-Phoenician (the Canaanite) woman was indeed an amazing lady who teaches us some really important lessons. May we never forget her and what she teaches us.

II. **Once again I exclaim we need the “great faith” of this woman.**

A. We need the faith that believes in the Son of God and the Savior of the world. We need the faith that is willing to submit to Jesus and make Him the Lord of our lives. We need the faith that will motivate us to turn from our sins, confess Christ, and be baptized for the remission of our sins. We need the faith that will follow Jesus every day.

B. If you have that faith, we invite you to come to Jesus now. Come as we stand and sing.

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