

The Gospel for *Outsiders*

Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus takes his disciples to the **'wrong side of the lake'** ...

This is the only time in Jesus' ministry that he ventured into a _____ land. (Tyre and Sidon)

And there he encounters more than just a Gentile. The woman is a Canaanite. (Remember them?)

The **Canaanite** woman ...

... has somehow heard of Jesus and identifies him as the _____ of Israel. ("O Lord, Son of David")

The frustrated **disciples** ...

... seem to be asking for Jesus to grant her request in order to get rid of her. ("Send her away ...")

Jesus is silent at first then ...

... responds in an unexpected way ("I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.")

... and his words only get _____ ("It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.")

But what was his intention?

For the **disciples**, Jesus is ...

- 1) Exposing their _____
- 2) Expanding their _____ of the Kingdom
- 3) Enlarging their capacity to show _____

For the **woman**, Jesus is ...

- 1) _____ her faith
- 2) Using her example of faith to _____ the disciples (and us) a most important lesson ...

Who is the Gospel for?

Those who are _____ for it.

... a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying ... "she is crying out after us"

The Gospel intersects our lives at the point of our great _____ and our great _____.

Those who are not offended by _____.

Jesus: "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

The woman: "... even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

No matter how we try to soften Jesus' words at this point, one thing is clear. He called this woman a "_____".

And she wasn't triggered. She wasn't offended. She didn't storm off. She stayed and listened to the _____ and was _____ by it.

Grace means nothing if we think we are _____ to it.

Those who don't _____ it.

"Have mercy on me ..."

Remember the dire situation that sent her to Jesus: *"my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon."*

Demon possession/oppression is never _____ or accidental. Somewhere, there is a sinful cause – idolatry, witchcraft, dalliances with evil, etc. The mother seems to know her daughter's condition is not _____.

She knows she has no _____ on his goodness and generosity. But she comes anyway.

Mercy only has meaning when we know we are _____.

The Reward of Faith

The Canaanite woman is one of only _____ people in the entire Gospel of Matthew whom Jesus explicitly praises for their faith.

"O woman, great is your faith!" (Matt. 15:28)

The only other person to receive that kind of praise?

_____ in Matthew 8, who said to Jesus:

"Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed." (Matt. 8:8)

And what does Jesus say in response?

"Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith." (Matt. 8:10)

There is room at His table for the desperate, the humble, the unworthy. *Will you come?*