

# The Faith That Brings Miracles - The Syrophoenician Woman

Matthew 15:21-28

Life Group Discussion – February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

When Jesus entered the region of Tyre and Sidon, there was a divide between the Jews and Gentiles. However, this passage highlights one person, a Syrophoenician woman who needed Jesus Christ. This woman had a daughter that was demon possessed. She asked Jesus twice to heal her daughter but was rejected both times. The first rejection was when Jesus simply did not answer her, and the second rejection was when he gave an answer that could be considered offensive. But the Syrophoenician woman continued to cling on to Jesus, and at the end was able to heal her daughter.

People of faith are not people who simply sit and wait for God to heal. For those who truly believe in the power of Jesus Christ, there is no amount of difficulty or hardship that will stop them from trusting only in God and seeking the Lord for an answer.

This story of the Syrophoenician woman is in the gospels of Matthew and Mark. In Mark 7 we are introduced to this woman who is a citizen of Greece and has worshipped the religion of that nation. Before she met Jesus, she had trusted in those Greek gods or her own strength to heal her daughter. But we must remember those idols are meaningless and will lead us down the wrong path.

When there are problems in our lives, these idols will give a large amount of influence and direct the way we think and act. However, these things that have so much power over us are just temporary and will soon pass away. We must look into our own spiritual lives and see whether we are trusting in the world or in our God. Many of us come to church but it is only our bodies that are here, our minds are elsewhere. There are not many who truly want to experience the living God of the Bible, even though He is among us.

So how do we experience the power of the Lord? Let us look at the story of the Syrophoenician woman.

## 1. Come to Jesus

This woman did not just hear the rumors of Jesus Christ and sit back and do nothing. She moved toward Jesus and expressed her faith through her actions. Your faith should be seen. If you truly believe then your body must move toward the Lord. If you do not move and stay only within your home, you will never experience the falling of rain. In the same way, if we do not move toward God then we will never experience His grace in our lives. The Syrophoenician woman believed and acted.

## 2. Accept the Spiritual Power of Jesus

The Syrophoenician woman confessed something amazing to Jesus, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David". This confession has two meanings. When she says "Lord", she is using the Greek word *kurios*. First, the people of Israel used this word when they called out to God. It was an intimate word, similar to a husband calling his wife, "darling" or "honey". The Israelite people only used this word *kurios* when they called upon the Lord. The second thing we can extract from this confession is her use of the king of Israel. This was not a political meaning, but the use of "Son of David" was to show that the king was someone who came for the weak and the enslaved to heal them and set them free.

What was most surprising was that this Syrophoenician woman, a person from a different country, would use this wording when talking to Jesus. Even though this woman was from a foreign nation, she understood the power of Jesus Christ and accepted who He was.

My church,

There is a spiritual realm around us. Even with the technological and scientific advances happening all around us, the demon-possessed daughter of the Syrophoenician woman was very real and is something still happening today.

We cannot cast out demons or heal the sick on our own. That is why we call on and lean upon the name of Jesus Christ. It is not through our name that miracles happen, it is purely through the name of Jesus Christ.

Believe in the spiritual power of Jesus Christ. Proclaim the power that is in His name and you will experience the same, if not greater, miracles that were seen in the Bible.

## 3. Express the unwavering faith that comes from the love of Jesus

Even though the Syrophoenician woman asked Jesus to heal her sick daughter, she was rejected.

**He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matthew 15:24)**

Jesus was correct in what He said. It was through His death on the cross that the sins of all mankind were taken away but in his ministry on the Earth, He was sent for Israel. However, the woman did not give up and

stood in front of Jesus crying out, "Lord, help me". It was then that Jesus said these harsh words, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs". This woman was not someone Jesus came down specifically to minister to, similar to how the dogs in the streets have no owner and no name. The bread that the children eat is the Word of God and that power of the Spirit was meant for the Israelites. So this woman asks for just crumbs, that it was okay if she did not receive the Word of God or the power of the Spirit, but if Jesus could simply give enough to heal her daughter. This was a confession to Jesus saying that even a tiny portion would be more than enough to heal and to revive.

**She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." (Matthew 15:27)**

When Jesus heard her words, He accepted her faith.

**Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly. (Matthew 15:28)**

If this is the case, what is considered great faith? Great faith is one that is seen through action. Those with little or no faith will seem good from the outside but those actions will disappear as difficulties arise. This woman believed in the healing power of Jesus Christ and it was through her actions of clinging to Him, even in rejection, that led to her daughter's healing. You must show your faith through your actions.

My brothers and sisters,  
Just like the rejection first faced by the woman, there will be difficult circumstances that are ahead of us. It is in these times we must take ownership of that great faith.

The promises of God are true. It may seem slow but these promises will happen in God's perfect timing. I hope that we can be a church that waits with great faith in the promises of God.

#### **4. Move the heart of Jesus through the Words of God**

The Syrophoenician woman's plea to Jesus was not without reason. Even with Jesus' rejection, the woman continued to chase after Him. She knew the power of Jesus and said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table". And it was this moment that moved Jesus.

**Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. (Isaiah 1:18)**

God wants us to talk to Him and wants us to share our thoughts. That is why we must think about the way we pray to Him.

We are not praying as strangers to a foreign God, we are praying knowing and seeing the evidence of His power and His grace in our lives.

**"God, your Word will not change. We believe that your promises will come to pass. We believe in your Word so we pray that you will hear us in our cries!"**

We are able to take God's Words as our own and move the heart of God.

**"Great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire"**

My family,  
I hope that Shining Star can be a church that takes ownership of that type of great faith.

## **SHARING-----**

1. This amazing miracle that we read about was only possible because of this woman's first step toward Jesus. If she had stood still, it would not have been possible. Talk about a time when God worked in your life when you stepped out in faith.
2. Jesus coldly rejected the woman at first. If you had experienced this, what would your reaction be? Please share.
3. God does not want a prayer that fills certain requirements; He wants a prayer that is authentic and full of His Word. How can you change your prayer requests to reflect this prayer and move His heart? End with a time of worship together.