

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 11TH-12TH, 2020 // BOOK OF MATTHEW

TO THE DOGS? (MATTHEW 15:21-28)

FAMOUS PORT CITIES

Tyre and Sidon were port cities on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea that were viewed as evil cities because past prophets had denounced them. While in a supposedly evil area, Jesus encounters a Gentile woman.

- So, **Jesus was in an unacceptable place getting to know unacceptable people.** Exactly what He came to do.

THERE WAS SOMETHING BIGGER HAPPENING

After the altercation with the Pharisees from Jerusalem, Jesus made a statement by going to an area the Pharisees saw as untouchable and encountering a non-Jewish woman.

- The Pharisees viewed the place, nationality, and gender as inferior. But, **Jesus was demonstrating that He came for the willing, despite their circumstances.**

IT TAKES DESPERATION

The Canaanite woman would've been viewed as the lowest of the low by a Jewish leader, but this woman was desperate because her daughter was being "tormented by a demon."

- Not only was she **desperate**, but she recognized Who Jesus was and yelled "Son of David!" This shows that **she believed He was the Savior.**

AT FIRST, JESUS IGNORED HER

As they walked, the woman continued to cry out to Jesus, but He remained silent. His disciples noticed, and assumed that He wanted her to go away. Jesus even reminded them that He came to minister to Israel.

- There was a lesson being taught. First, Jesus wanted the 12 **to know the value of persistence.**

THE SECOND LESSON WAS A FORESHADOWING

Jesus loves all people, but He chose to start the spreading of the gospel in Israel. It would be non-Jews like the desperate Canaanite woman that the disciples would be responsible for.

- **Sharing the gospel to the world is the "greater things" (Jn. 14:12) that Jesus said His followers would do.**

DID JESUS CALL THAT WOMAN A DOG?

This is not as derogatory as we might think. As opposed to the comparison to wild dogs used by racist Jews to non-Jews, Jesus was referring to a house dog.

- Jesus was further showing His obligation was to first give the "children" of Israel the "bread," or opportunity, to hear the gospel.

WILLING AND HUMBLE

The woman wasn't offended by the dog reference because she knew her place when kneeling next to the Creator! She also knew that the Master takes care of even the least of humanity if they will approach Him.

- **The key to everything is humility! Without submitting to the Master we will never be saved and changed!**

A SHIFT HAD JUST TAKEN PLACE

The conversation with the Gentile woman and Jesus' remark that her "faith was great," shows that the emphasis on Israel was shifting to all people. Now, **all people will be known as Believers or non-Believers (Gal. 3:28).**

- This is important! **The professing people of God will miss their opportunity if they refuse to humble themselves.**

"AND FROM THAT MOMENT..."

Jesus not only complimented the Gentile woman's faith, He immediately delivered her daughter from demonic oppression.

- **It is in times of desperate surrender to Jesus that we and those we love are impacted and changed by Him.**

MORE HEALING (MATTHEW 15:29-31)

A HUGE RESPONSE FROM "THOSE PEOPLE"

Remember, Jesus was rejected in His own hometown, but in Gentile territory along the coast "large crowds came to Him" and "were amazed" when Jesus started to heal and save them.

- These people were polytheists, **but when they saw the power of Jesus, they exclusively "gave glory to the God of Israel."**

NOT EVERYONE, BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE

Not everyone is looking for the truth, but for the ones that are, we need to be **living out our faith, praying for others, and telling people about the work Christ has done in our lives.**

- **We are the conduits of the Light on this earth.** People are hurting, and we are to share the Savior with others.

AGAIN? (MATTHEW 15:32-39)

SIMILAR, BUT TO A DIFFERENT KIND OF CROWD

The feeding of the 4000 is similar to the 5000 but with one major difference, this crowd was all Gentiles where the previous was all Jews.

- These were the same people that were following Him in v29-31. Though it seems crazy, walking and not eating for 3 days probably didn't phase them because they just saw such amazing miracles.

"I DON'T WANT TO SEND THEM AWAY HUNGRY"

Jesus wanted to give them spiritual nourishment, but He also knew they needed to be taken care of physically. The people were exhausted to the point of possibly collapsing, and Jesus wanted them to rest.

- This goes back to **balance. We are to pursue Christ with everything in us, but we must also sabbath and recharge.**

HAD THEY FORGOTTEN THE 5,000?

In a situation that looked almost exactly like the miracle Jesus performed for a Jewish audience, the disciples asked "Where could we get enough bread" to feed the crowd?

- It was probably less that they forgot and more that they didn't think Jesus would do this kind of miracle for a non-Jewish crowd.

BUT GOD DID A MIRACLE FOR THE UNDESIRABLES

The results of the feeding of the 4k Gentiles was the same as the 5k Jews. The commonality was that both groups were hungry for Jesus to impact their lives.

- Romans 2:11 says, **"There is no favoritism with God." This means all people willing to be saved and changed are invited by Him.**

EVEN THE DOGS

- It all begins with acknowledging that **we are not the center of the universe.**
- Jesus and His Word show us over and over that where we are from, our pasts, our color, or our gender do not negate us from an experience with God.
- When we submit our lives to Christ, **our identity is found in Him.**

FORGETTING HE CAN DO IT AGAIN

- Like the disciples, **we forget how much God loves us and others.**
- We also forget His faithfulness. How often do we slide into panic and hopelessness in tough times, completely forgetting that **God has delivered before and is willing to do it again?**

IS IT TIME TO LAY IT DOWN?

- All of us must reach the place of the Canaanite woman; on our knees **desperate for God to step in.**
- It is in **complete surrender and submission** that God does amazing things in our lives and the lives of others.