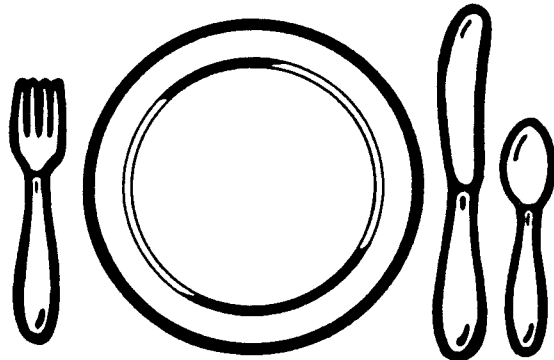


# CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE

(The Healing of the Syrophenician's Daughter)



## **A Mother's Triumphant Love**

- The Desperate Mom (v.22,23)
- The Discouraging Disciples (v.23)
- The Devoted Savior (v.24-27)
- The Delivered Daughter (v.28)

*"Lord, even the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table;  
O woman, great is thy faith." (Matthew 15:27,28)*

Bill Kirk

# “CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE”

**Text:** Matthew 15:21-28  
**Subject:** The Healing Of The Syrophenician’s Daughter

“Lord, even the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master’s table... O woman, great is thy faith” (vs. 27,28)

## Introduction

**Fact:** The year of opposition is now beginning for Jesus.

- #1. Herod is suspicious of Him.
- #2. The Pharisees can no longer hide or conceal their hostility and hatred.
- #3. The people are taking deep offense at His words.

**Fact:** So, Jesus feeling the need of retirement, and wanting to further instruct the twelve, comes to the area of Tyre and Sidon some 40 miles from Capernaum.

**Fact:** Mark reveals that Jesus went into a friend’s house to get away in some privacy.

“And from thence He arose, and went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into a house, and would have no man know it, but He could not hide”. (Mark 7:24)

## **Why Couldn’t Jesus Hide?**

“For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at His feet” (Mark 7:25)

## **Questions With Answers**

- #1. Why did this mother disturb Jesus in seclusion?
- #2. What did Jesus say to the distressed mother?
- #3. How did the disciples responded to the mother?
- #4. How did the mother respond to Jesus?
- #5. Who are the “Dogs” mentioned by Jesus?
- #6. What are the “Crumbs under the table” referred to by the mother?
- #7. And what difference does it all make in your life and mine?

## **I. The Desperate Mother (Vs. 22, 23)**

**Question:** “Pastor, why was this mother desperate enough to interrupt the privacy of Jesus?”

### **(3 Reasons)**

#### **#1. She had a daughter in trouble**

“My daughter is grievously vexed with a devil” (Matthew 15:22)

**Fact:** Mom was a Canaanite woman (a Gentile of the Gentiles).

**Fact:** The Phoenicians worshipped the great mother goddess “Ashtoreth” or “Queen of Heaven”.

**Fact:** This mother has come to Jesus seeking divine mercy for herself and her daughter.

A. Herself – (She knows she is from a heathen land and not worthy of a favor)

Ever feel that way?

B. Her daughter – (is demon possessed and no one can heal her but Jesus).

◆ The cure was beyond the scope of the ordinary physicians.

◆ The healing must come from someone greater than any human ability.

#### **#2. She had detours to get around (What were they?)**

◆ Her nationality was against her...

...because she was a Gentile and Jesus was a Jew.

- ◆ Her sex/gender was against her...  
...because Jewish rabbis paid little attention to women.
- ◆ Satan was against her...  
...because one of his demons had taken control of her daughter's life.
- ◆ The disciples were against her...  
...because they said in verse 23, "Send her away Lord so that we can get some rest".

"Send her away for another time"

"Send her away for a better day"

#3. She had a delay to deal with

"But He answered her not a word" (v. 23)

**Question:** How did Jesus respond to the mother's cry?

**Question:** What was Jesus' first response?

### **"He Answered Her Not A Word"**

**Ask:** Why this delay from Jesus?

**Ask:** Why no reply from Jesus?

**Ask:** Why is Jesus "On hold" for this desperate mother?

- ◆ Because Jesus again will teach us, the power of persistence in prayer.
- ◆ Jesus will teach us to keep on knocking.
- ◆ Jesus will teach us to never quit.
- ◆ Jesus will teach us the reward in prayer...  
...for all who refuse to be discouraged and detoured in their praying.  
...for all who refuse to quit and lay down the weapon of prayer.  
...for all who persist until the answer comes.

### **(What's The Lesson Here?)**

That we must never construe a delay in God answering our prayers as a refusal to answer them.

**Fact:** This woman could be delayed, but could not be denied!

**Fact:** This woman could be delayed, but could not be detoured too much!

### **(Application)**

- ◆ At times you will be delayed,
- ◆ At times you will live in verse 23,
- ◆ At times you will pray and see no tangible answer.

### **(But Remember This:)**

#1. You are not doing nothing when you are praying.

#2. At times God's work is invisible, but God is working even when you cannot see Him.

### **The Woman's Dilemma Is Normal**

#1. She has an intense burden for someone she loves.

#2. She has questions and feels inferior as she approaches Jesus.

#3. She has a delay to pray through and overcome.

## **You Will Experience The Same Challenges**

- #1. You might have an intense burden for someone you love:
  - ◆ These burdens are from the Lord!
- #2. You might have questions as to why you've experienced such pain for another:
  - ◆ These feelings are normal and will be healed over time.
- #3. You might be waiting and seeing no visible signs of answered prayer:
  - ◆ These seasons are a test of patience revealing your faith that the answer is coming.

### **II. The Discouraging Disciples (V. 23)**

"Send her away Lord, for she crieth after us".

"Dismiss this bothersome woman Lord".

"Tell Her to get out of here Lord".

**Question:** How did Jesus respond to the disciples plea of "Send her away, Lord"?

**Answer:** Jesus seems to be as rude as the disciples:

"I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (v. 24)

A. As the Son of David, Jesus had to come to minister to Israel.

B. Jesus came to reign as king on the throne of David.

C. Thus, this Gentile woman had no claim upon Jesus.

#### **(Jesus Says To The Mom)**

"You are not of Israel and to them am I sent" (Verse 24)

"I have come to give bread to My family, and you are outside of the family circle" (Verse 26)

**Fact:** Seems to be a hard saying from Jesus.

**Fact:** But Jesus wants to expose the woman's attitude for us all to see.

**Question:** Is there anything that discourages you tonight?

**Question:** Is there anyone who has disappointed you (not fulfilled your expectations?)

**Questions:** Is there anything or anyone that keeps you "Away" from Jesus tonight?

**Question:** Is there some good thing that is keeping you from God's best?

### **III. The Devoted Savior (Vs. 24-27)**

"It is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to dogs" (v. 26)

#### **(What Does It Mean?)**

**Fact:** The word "Children" refers to the Jews.

**Fact:** The word "Dogs" refers to the Gentiles (those sunken in impurity).

**Fact:** Jesus wasn't calling the woman a dog.

**Fact:** He simply knew that the woman was a dog in the mind of the disciples and the Jews.

**Question:** Why did Jesus say this to the woman?

**Answer:** He wanted to reveal to us again the power of prayer and faith.

**Question:** How did the woman respond to this dog reference?

**Answer:** "Even the dogs Lord, get the crumbs from their master's table" (v. 27)

### (What A Great Response)

- #1. She agrees with Jesus that she isn't worthy to sit at the table of the Lord.
- #2. She owns up to the fact that her people are dogs (the heathen Canaanites).
- #3. She admits that she is considered an outsider. (Not from Israel)
- #4. She doesn't turn away and pout in a rage.

### (Then The Revelation)

“Even the dogs get the crumbs and scraps left over” (Which Means:)

- #1. “All I need Lord, are just a few crumbs of blessing which You can spare”.
- #2. “You've dealt so bountifully with Israel Lord and I know helping me will not impoverish the Jews”.
- #3. “Lord I know that just a few crumbs from Your table are enough to expel the power of the devil from my daughter”. **And...**
  - ...because the woman agreed with Jesus,
  - ...because the woman humbled herself as a “Dog”,
  - ...because the woman refused to get sour,
  - ...because the woman was earnest in prayer,
  - #1. Jesus exalted her as a child of Abraham.
  - #2. Jesus allowed her entrance through prayer.
  - #3. Jesus received her openly and willingly.
  - #4. Jesus reveals that her humility made her victorious.

### (Hear The Lesson Of Power)

- ◆ “Just a few crumbs of Your mercy Lord will do what the doctor cannot do”.
- ◆ “Just a few crumbs of Your grace are sufficient to answer my prayer”.
- ◆ “Just a few crumbs from Your table Lord, will provide healing for my daughter”.

**Fact:** The woman knows what we must know:

- #1. That since Jesus can provide for His own sheep, (the entire nation of Israel).
- #2. Surely he has the answer to my one request and appeal. (Repeat)

**Ask:** Do you need any crumbs from His table?

**Ask:** Do you need answers to prayer from His table?

**Ask:** Do you need what only God can provide?

**Ask:** Are you willing to come God's way (like the woman)...

...in humility!

...in faith!

...in perseverance!

**Ask:** Do you believe that Jesus is still Jesus and can answer your prayers?

**Ask:** Will you place yourself at the table of the Lord for His “Healing Crumbs”?

- ◆ “Ask and it shall be given you” (Matthew 7:7)
- ◆ “Call unto Me and I will answer thee” (Jeremiah 33:3)
- ◆ “Ask in prayer, believing, and ye shall receive” (Matthew 21:22)
- ◆ “When you pray, believe, and you will receive” (Mark 11:24)
- ◆ “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16)
- ◆ “And When they prayed the place was shaken” (Acts 4:31)
- ◆ “And whatsoever we ask we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight”. (I John 3:22)

**AMEN!**  
Bill Kirk, Pastor