

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Have Mercy On Me!

Matthew 15:21-39

Ever try and get in touch with someone?

Not answering

Phone, email, text

Can be worrisome

Can be annoying - you just need to know if you need milk or not and you're standing in front of the milk

My phone is on silent 99% of the time

If someone calls and I don't know the number, I usually let it go to voicemail

Text me if you need me. I check lol

Text me before you call me, I'm introverted lol

Today, Jesus doesn't respond in the way we'd think, at least right away

[Pray]

15:21-23

Went out from there

Tyre & Sidon, Gentile cities, 50 miles away

Not an accident Jesus was there

History tells us that this region didn't like the Jews

Yet here we see a woman, seeking Jesus

And Jesus, making it a point to go there

Severely demon possessed

Is there ever a time when it's not severe?

**Under the power of, miserable, to be ill
improperly, wrongly (i don't think it was her daughter's fault)**

Strongs -especially severe diseases, either bodily or mental (such as paralysis, blindness, deafness, loss of speech, epilepsy, melancholy, insanity, etc.), whose bodies in the opinion of the Jews demons had entered, and so held possession of them as not only to afflict them with ills, but also to dethrone the reason and take its place themselves; accordingly, the possessed were accustomed to express the mind and consciousness of the demons dwelling in them;

We seem to have two factions in Christianity:

one says everything is a demon, the other says nothing is

Balanced answer, the reasonable answer, the scriptural answer:

Not everything is a demon, but there surely is demon possession and illness caused by it

- *Just spend a few minutes on the internet,
watching people react or do things or behave certain ways...*
- *Modern culture*
- *Opening up with drugs*
- *Witchcraft*

O Lord, Son of David

She recognized him for who he was

Woman of Canaan

Israel's enemies in OT, canaanites

Ancient Region - Modern, Lebanon, Israel, Syria, Jordan

Rahab

People who would be displaced and replaced by the jews, on God's command

They could have repented, could have become God's people, but their sin caused them to lose the land

Modern arguments with Israel - it's their land

God says so

Have mercy on me...something a king can offer. Relief from trouble.

Help one afflicted, the wretched

Jesus didn't answer...seemingly ignored her

What do we do when God doesn't answer? What does Jesus want us to do?

Matthew 7:7-11 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

I don't see this as a test of her faith But a revealing of it

Jesus loves to reveal things about himself, about people, about truth

Revelation can come like a bolt of lightning But it also comes through pursuit

Psalm 1:1-6 Blessed [is] the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; **But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.** The ungodly [are] not so, But [are] like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

*Friend texting a revelation she had
It didn't just happen, she was thinking about God.*

If it seems like God hasn't shown up, or shown the way, don't give up. He will.

Maybe he has already
 and you're looking the wrong way,
 or didn't like the answer when you first heard it

Good old disciples, full of compassion

These guys were no saints until Pentecost

Good news for us...aren't we all without God's Spirit?

- a dismissal with desire satisfied -

If the disciples did want her wish granted, it was just to get rid of her

Thank God he's our high priest and not other people just like us!

:24-26

Now Jesus answers...but he answers with a question

Question game

Her response...it says worship.

Get down on the ground, on the knees, bowed down

Is this not...dog like in posture?

Notice, she did not pray, 'Lord, help my daughter;' but, 'Lord, help me.'" (Spurgeon)

The love of a parent.

Her daughter's need was her need. When my kids have need it weighs on me more than when I have need.

As a kid, loved ones desiring the sickness be theirs and not mine

Do we worship when we're desperate?

Or do we complain?

**Do we turn away when we don't get the answer we want
or things are bad?**

His response to her worship? A truth, that could be taken harshly.

Saying she's a dog...that's what the jews thought of gentiles. Dogs. worthless. Vile. dirty.

Remember, potcakes, not pets.

Jesus is showing that God's provision is for his children.

God's answer to prayer is for those with a relationship with him.

**God may hear you (omniscience)
But He listens to us through Jesus**

Not that he's not compassionate
But Jesus is our way to the father

1 Timothy 2:5 KJV - For [there is] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

He's not calling *her* a dog. He's revealing if she has a relationship with God.
Because if she does, she can come *boldly*.

His tone of voice I don't believe was harsh, even though out of context, one might think he was being harsh. If her faith wasn't there, this would have sent her away. But she knew better and kept asking.

Hebrews 4:14-16 - Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all [points] tempted as [we are, yet] without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Sometimes the situation God has us in seems harsh. Seems cold.
Maybe he even seems cold.**

But if we know His nature, know Him, we know that it is not out of being cold or harsh towards us that we're in what we're in.

**What he's saying to us is keep seeking him for the real answer.
The full answer. Because he wants to answer.**

And the situation isn't done yet until his word is complete.

:27-28

**Her response...in this conversation with God...is a wise one!
A humble one!**

Yes, even if I am a dog, I'm a dog to a master. And my master will feed me,
even if it's just crumbs from God, it's what I want.

Isaiah 1:18 Come now, let us reason together...

How do we come before the Lord? What is our worship like? Our faith like? Do we come demanding?

Or do we come expectant, because we know that even if we were just a pet, distant but in the house of God, he'll provide?

Is that why you're here this morning?

O woman, great is your faith!

What a contrast to the Jewish men of stature he just left. No faith.

Jesus asks the disciples, those with him all the time, why do you doubt?

Why do you have little faith?

And this Canaanite woman, who'd never met Jesus,
but recognized him as the promised one of the Jews, has great faith!

She saw what the Jews wouldn't

This was the whole point of Israel, God's chosen people, to be a light to the world
But in their light, they became blind

The wise men

The Ethiopian eunuch

The Roman soldiers

Etc etc

Let it be as you desire

Desires for God, God gives you the desires of your heart

Romans turned over to debasement

But if our desires are for good, we'll just as equally be granted that

Daughter healed from that very hour

Life changing. For her daughter. For the mom.

Where's her dad? With her? Not in the picture?

How important a parent's faith is for their child's health and wellbeing

Physically and spiritually.

:29-31

Went south, quite a bit. Again, makes his stop in the region purposeful

More sick

- Blind
- Mute
- Maimed - injured, potentially mutilated. Restoration.

*Not found elsewhere, but is it not completely possible?
Reattached the ear of the servant in the garden*

Being brought by those that love them.

These people could not have gotten to Jesus on their own.

How important it is we pray for others. We talk to them about Jesus. We bring them to Him!
They might not be able to make the journey on their own.

All healed! The crowd marvelled.

Jesus didn't make the blind leap, he made the blind see.

Clearly God. Nobody else can do this. He made the body he can easily heal the body.

:32-39

The crowd there for the healings hasn't left either. I mean, would you?

Same problem again, but not the same story. Not the same incident.

- The numbers are different
- The solution is different
- The location is different
- The season is different (grass, no grass)
- Different waiting time

But same pattern as the 5,000

This time, 7:

Seven loaves

Seven baskets leftover

Seven, number of completion. Divine number.

Another hint, revelation for those paying attention,

at who gets the credit for the miracle...God

And who Jesus is...God.

When you're waiting for God to answer, to provide, watching him do something, seeking him...

how long can you wait for the answer?

How long can you wait to be filled?

1 prayer? 10 minutes? 2 prayers?

Days? Weeks? Months? Years?

What if you never see the answer in this life? Is that OK with you?

Do we not give up, give in too early and miss out on the real healing?

The real blessing?

The real answer?

Don't give up. Keep asking. Keep seeking. Keep knocking.

And keep waiting on Jesus to answer. He will.

He is the answer.