

Jesus – King of the Jews #43

Casting Out a Demon

Matt 15:21-28

Introduction:

1. The Bible has much to say about faith.
 - a. It speaks of weak faith, strong faith, bold faith, rich faith, abiding faith, steadfast faith, dead faith, precious faith...
 - b. Common faith, unfeigned faith, working faith, obedient faith, and many other kinds.
2. It also speaks of little faith and great faith, and this text contains the 2nd reference in Matthew's gospel in which Jesus speaks of great faith.
 - a. Of the Roman centurion who asked for his servant to be healed Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. (8:10).
 - b. In both cases the person expressing great faith was a Gentile; and in this second instance the context seems to imply that the woman's faith not only was for the deliverance of her daughter but was also for personal salvation.
3. The miracle of Christ recorded here has to do with His exorcising a demon from a little girl.
4. Four of Christ's miracles recorded in the Gospels have to do with casting out demons.
5. Demon possession was rampant when Christ was on earth.
6. Much of the wild stuff we see today in society is often related to demonism, but psychology and psychiatry do not want to admit such a thing, for it would be hard on their business.

I. The Country for the Miracle – vs 21

21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.

1. Most of Christ's ministry was to the Jews, a priority He emphasized in the text of this miracle – vs 24
2. Yet, in mercy Christ did His predicted work to the Gentiles in being "a light to lighten the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32).
3. Jesus left Galilee because of mounting pressures
 - a) *Multitudes who recognized him as the Messiah*
 - (1) They were right – but they followed him from place to place
 - (2) They were wrong about the kind of Messiah He would be
 - (3) They expected the Messiah to deliver them from the oppressive Romans
 - (4) They expected the Messiah to usher in an unending period of political freedom and material prosperity
 - b) *Jesus was under constant pressure of possible arrest and execution by Herod Antipas who thought He was John the Baptist come back from the dead – 14:2*
 - c) *The greatest pressure was from the Jewish religious leaders*
 - (1) Jesus had rebuked and embarrassed the delegation from Jerusalem by showing the ungodliness of their manmade traditions – 15:1-9
 - (2) Danger from the religious establishment escalated
4. Going to Tyre and Sidon put Jesus out of the jurisdiction of Herod and the Jewish religious leaders
5. Probably he did not go to this area to minister since He was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel
6. He probably went there to rest

BYZ **Matthew 15:21** Καὶ ἐξελθὼν ἐκεῖθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὰ μέρη Τύρου καὶ Σιδῶνος. **μέρος**, ους, τό with a basic meaning *part, share*, translated according to the context; (1) as distinct from the whole *part, piece* (LU 24.42); (a) as a part of a country *district, region* (MT 2.22); (b) as a component of something *side* (of a boat or ship) (JN 21.6); (c) as a political or religious group *party* (AC 23.9); (d) as a line of business *trade* (AC 19.27); (e) adverbially, with prepositions: ἀνὰ μ. *in succession, one after the other* (1C 14.27); ἀπὸ μέρους *in part, partly* (RO 11.25); with respect to time *for a while* (RO 15.24); ἐκ μέρους *individually, in part* (1C 12.27); ἐν μέρει *in the matter of, with regard to* (CO 2.16); κατὰ μ. *in detail, part by part, point by point* (HE 9.5); (2) as a portion of the possible whole *share, place* (RV 20.6)

II. The Case for the Miracle – vs 22

22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

- The need for Christ was very evident in the case.

A. A Serious Case – “grievously vexed”

1. The word translated “grievously” means “badly.”
2. It was a serious case.
3. The demon was creating many aggravating problems.
4. Evil does not make life nice.

B. A Satanic Case – “vexed with a devil”

1. These four words are a translation of just one Greek word which means “to be violently possessed by, to be in the power of a demon” (Zodhiates).
2. So this was a Satanic case (demons were part of Satan's work force) which also emphasized the seriousness of the case.
3. The greatness of the problem is stated to show the greatness of the power of Christ in solving the problem.

III. The Coming for the Miracle – vs 21, 22

- The way in which the mother came to Christ for help for her daughter is most instructive.

A. She Came Wisely

- The wisdom of the woman's coming is at least threefold.

1. The Wisdom in the Moment

21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

- a) *Once the woman had heard that Christ was in the area, she came for help.*
 - b) *She was a good steward of her opportunity in that she promptly used her opportunity.*
 - c) *Promptness is necessary if we are to take advantage of spiritual opportunities.*
 - d) *After the irreverent treatment of the Lord by the scribes and Pharisees—who had called Him a drunk, a companion of sinners, and demon-controlled—it must have been refreshing for Jesus to hear this Gentile woman come to Him with such respect and submission.*
2. The Wisdom in the Man - “Unto him.”
 - a) *The woman went to the best source of help for her daughter.*
 - b) *You never make a mistake in going to Jesus for help.*
 - c) *The best help for our problems is Divine help.*
 3. The Wisdom in the Mercy - “Have mercy on me.”
 - a) *She could not approach Christ on the basis of money, for she does not evidence any affluence.*
 - b) *She came rather on the basis of mercy.*
 - c) *Asking for mercy means that she was asking for something undeserved*
 - d) *Faith that apprehends the blessings of Christ involves repentance that comes from a deep and sincere sense of unworthiness*
 - e) *Coming via mercy is no handicap.*
 - f) *Rather it is a big plus in advantage when seeking Divine help.*
 - g) *We get more via mercy than via merit or any other way.*
 - h) *Mercy does not limit Divine help but enlarges it.*

BYZ Matthew 15:22 Καὶ ἰδοῦ, γυνὴ Χανααναία ἀπὸ τῶν ὀρίων ἐκείνων ἐξελθοῦσα ἐκράυγασεν αὐτῷ, λέγουσα, Ἐλέησόν με, κύριε, υἱὲ Δαυὶδ· ἡ θυγάτηρ μου κακῶς δαιμονίζεται.
κακῶς δαιμονίζεται - badly demonized

B. She Came Earnestly

22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

1. The word "cried" is a very strong word.
2. It demonstrated her earnestness.
3. If we are not earnest in seeking Divine help, we cannot expect God to be earnest in giving Divine help.

C. She Came Honorably

22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

- In coming to Christ, this woman gave honor to some important things.
 1. She Called Christ Master.
 - a) *The word "Lord" means "Master."*
 2. She Called Christ Messiah
 - a) *The phrase "Son of David" speaks of the Messianic claim of Christ.*
 - b) *This woman had better theology than the religious leaders of Israel.*
 - c) *And she got greater blessings as a result.*

IV. The Challenge for the Miracle – vs 23-24

- Coming to Christ for help will often be challenged by many things.
- This challenging of one's faith in Christ is intended help to strengthen one's faith in Christ.

A. The Deafness to Her Plea

23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

1. We do not usually think of strengthening our faith by the ignoring of our prayers by God but rather the answering of our prayers by God.
2. Answers do indeed strengthen our faith, but delay can also strengthen our faith, for it checks our sincerity and gives us opportunity to be more fervent and hence stronger in the faith.
3. Great faith does not give up
 - a) *It is not deterred by obstacles, setbacks, or disappointments.*
 - b) *Jesus therefore tested the faith of this woman by setting up a series of barriers.*
 - c) *Some people have to struggle against strong doubts before they come to fully trust Christ for salvation.*
 - d) *Others have to struggle against the objections and arguments of friends and family.*
 - e) *Still others struggle to believe because they have never heard the gospel clearly presented or because they see inconsistencies in the lives of Christians they know.*
 - f) *This woman, however, had barriers placed in her way by the Savior Himself*

B. The Discouragement from the Disciples

23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

1. This performance was not a good one by the disciples.
2. They did not want to be bothered with the needs of the woman.
3. This must have been a great discouragement to the woman to have the closest followers of Christ hindering her coming to Christ.
4. One of the things we must overcome if we are going to grow in the faith is the opposition of friends, family and even good people of the faith.
5. We cannot base our faith on how others treat us.

BYZ **Matthew 15:23** Ὁ δὲ οὐκ ἀπεκρίθη αὐτῇ λόγον. Καὶ προσελθόντες οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἠρώτων αὐτόν, λέγοντες, Ἀπόλυσσον αὐτήν, ὅτι κράζει ὀπισθεν ἡμῶν.
For she crieth after us (hoti krazei opisthen hēmōn). The disciples greatly disliked this form of public attention, a strange woman crying after them. They disliked a sensation. Did they wish the woman sent away with her daughter healed or unhealed?

C. The Demotion of Her Position

24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

1. This demoted the woman.
2. She was a Gentile and Christ said His ministry was to the Jews.
3. This seemed to be a strong argument against helping the woman.
4. But it was simply to help strengthen her faith.
5. Sometimes God allows us to meet up with strong arguments against our faith.
6. But that can drive us to the Word of God and actually help us grow in the faith.

V. The Consecration for the Miracle – vs 25

25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

1. In spite of the difficulties in this woman's life, she still worshipped the Lord.
2. Her daughter was demon possessed and her coming to Christ had met with some real opposition.
3. But she was so consecrated she still worshipped.
4. This is a great example for all of us to make sure we still worship God even though things seem to be going against us.
5. Let us learn that faithfulness in worship will bring blessings.
6. This woman did not quit when things became bad; she did not stop worshipping and blame God for her troubles.
7. She was consecrated and kept worshipping—no wonder she was blessed so greatly by Christ.

VI. The Constancy for the Miracle – vs 25

25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

1. She would not give up.
2. Though Christ did not answer her at first and though the disciples tried to run her off and though Christ said He was sent to the Jews, not Gentiles, she still said, "Lord, help me."
3. If you want great blessings, you will have to be constant in pursuing them.
4. You will have to pursue even though obstacles keep getting in the way.
5. God does not give choice blessings to those who will not put out great effort for them.
6. Lack of effort for the blessing shows lack of esteem for the blessing, and God does not give valuable things to those who do not respect their value.

VII. The Confession for the Miracle – vs 26-27

26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. 27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

1. This woman confessed the Word of God to be truth.
2. Christ had just spoken to her about favoring the Jews in His ministry by saying it was not right to take the children's bread and give it to the dogs, and she acknowledged that He spoke the truth.
3. She accepted Christ's Word as truth even though it did not seem to favor her.
4. She was not like many church people who reject the Scripture when it speaks out against them.
5. Those who want great blessings from God must honor the Scriptures as truth, even if Bible truth hurts.

BYZ **Matthew 15:24** Ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς εἶπεν, Οὐκ ἀπεστάλην εἰ μὴ εἰς τὰ πρόβατα τὰ ἀπολωλότα οἴκου Ἰσραήλ.

I was not sent (ouk apestalēn). Second aorist passive indicative of apostellō. Jesus takes a new turn with this woman in Phoenicia. He makes a test case of her request. In a way she represented the problem of the Gentile world. He calls the Jews "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" in spite of the conduct of the Pharisees.

BYZ **Matthew 15:25** Ἡ δὲ ἐλθοῦσα προσεκύνησεν αὐτῷ λέγουσα, Κύριε, βοήθει μοι.

βοήθει verb imper pres act 2ps from βοηθέω - strictly *run to the aid of one who cries for help*; hence *help, come to the aid of, rescue* (MT 15.25)

BYZ **Matthew 15:26** Ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς εἶπεν, Οὐκ ἔστιν καλὸν λαβεῖν τὸν ἄρτον τῶν τέκνων, καὶ βαλεῖν τοῖς κυναρίοις.

Dogs (κυναρίοις) - Diminutive: little dogs. In v. 27, Wyc. renders the little whelps, and Tynd., in both verses, whelpsalms The picture is of a family meal, with the pet house-dogs running round the table.

VIII. The Condescension for the Miracle – vs 27

27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

1. Christ had equated Gentiles to dogs. She was a Gentile.
2. She did not get sore and walk off offended, but rather she condescended to the lowliness of her status and humbly took the position of the "dogs."
3. But she said she could still get "crumbs."
4. This humility was outstanding - It is necessary for salvation.
5. One must take the position of a sinner to obtain the great blessing of salvation.
6. Those who will not accept the fact that they are sinners will never enjoy salvation.

IX. The Compliment Before the Miracle – vs 28

28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

1. Indeed her faith was great.
2. She believed in spite of difficulties, in spite of delay in prayer, in spite of discouragement from the disciples, in spite of demotion in her position, and in spite of different arguments to disqualify her from the blessing.
3. Great faith will believe in spite of great difficulties, and great faith will believe the Word of God even the places in the Word that hurt.
4. Faith in the Lord and His Word does not garner compliments from the world, but nothing will get greater compliments from God.
5. "Without faith it is impossible to please him" ([Hebrews 11:6](#)), and this woman really pleased God because she had "great faith."

X. The Cause of the Miracle – vs 28

28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

1. Nothing so benefits mankind like faith in Jesus Christ and His Word.
2. This woman's faith resulted in the demon being cast out of her daughter.
3. Fame and fortune could not have done that but faith did.
4. The testimony of [Hebrews 11](#) is one of great exploits of faith.
5. When Daniel was delivered from the lions, faith was the cause.
6. "No manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God" ([Daniel 6:23](#)).
7. You may be short of finances, fame, and other things which this world esteems highly; but if you have faith in Christ and His Word, you can do great things for God and be a great blessing to mankind.

XI. The Confirming of the Miracle – vs 28

28 ... And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

1. When the mother got home, her daughter was well.
2. Evidently there was an inquiry as to the time of the recovery.
3. The time matched the time Christ told the woman "be it unto thee even as thou wilt."
4. Christ's work could always be confirmed.
5. The evidences for the faith are great and impressive.
6. "To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs" ([Acts 1:3](#)) is another text that shows the confirmation of Christ's work.
7. Many try to pass themselves off as Christian, but they lack proof.
8. If it is the real thing, it will have plenty of evidence.
9. Those who attack Christ and His Word will always be defeated by the great confirmations of the Word and work of Christ.

BYZ **Matthew 15:27** Ἡ δὲ εἶπεν, Ναί, κύριε· καὶ γὰρ τὰ κυνάρια ἐσθίει ἀπὸ τῶν ψιχίων τῶν πιπτόντων ἀπὸ τῆς τραπέζης τῶν κυρίων αὐτῶν.

Even the dogs (kai ta kunaria). She took no offence at the implication of being a Gentile dog. The rather she with quick wit took Christ's very word for little dogs (kunaria) and deftly turned it to her own advantage, for the little dogs eat of the crumbs (psichiōn, little morsels, diminutive again) that fall from the table of their masters (kuriōn), the children.

BYZ **Matthew 15:28** Τότε ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῇ, Ὠ γύναι, μεγάλη σου ἡ πίστις· γενηθήτω σοι ὡς θέλεις. Καὶ ἰάθη ἡ θυγάτηρ αὐτῆς ἀπὸ τῆς ὥρας ἐκείνης.