

A Mother's Faith
Mark 7:24-30

Intro.

I. The deepest longings of the human heart can be expressed through faith in special requests to God. We seek God in times of trouble. This is right. God can and will help in time of need.

II. A Syrophoenician woman (unnamed) comes to Jesus with a special request in behalf of her daughter. Her faith in Jesus brings her to Him and she seeks a solution to the problem burdening her heart. She goes to the right source. Faith in Jesus and love for her daughter bring this mother to the ultimate source of help.

Dis.

I. BACKGROUND.

a. Jesus withdrew from Galilee and went to Tyre and Sidon. This is the third time Jesus withdrew from the Galilean ministry for rest (4:35; 6:31). Jesus sought solitude. However, His fame preceded Him and He could not be hid.

b. During this retreat, a woman approached Jesus for help.

II. THE SYROPHENICIAN WOMAN.

a. The woman was a Gentile. She came to Jesus because she was attracted by His ability to fulfill her need. Jesus draws people to Him because He has something to offer that can be secured nowhere else.

b. She demonstrates deep respect for Jesus. She demonstrates genuine humility before Him. She fell down at His feet. Mk. 7:25.

c. She came immediately. Her sense of urgency was motivated by her love for her daughter.

d. She kept on asking Jesus to help her daughter who was possessed by a demon. The woman sought a miracle. She was persistent. She did not come seeking some self-serving request. She came in behalf of her daughter. Her love for her daughter compelled her to come.

1. Demon possession was a reality in Jesus' day.

2. Sometimes the possession of a demon brought on mental or physical illness. Demons could torment their victims and cause much suffering. The Syrophoenician woman had to watch her daughter suffer daily. Her compassion for her daughter was great and she sought the only remedy available to her—the power of Jesus.

III. THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN JESUS AND THE WOMAN.

a. The woman asked, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David, my daughter is grievously vexed with a demon." Matt. 15:22-23. The torment and suffering caused by this demon was immense.

b. At first, Jesus did not answer her a word.

c. The disciples thought her to be intrusive and desired to send her away.

d. Jesus then said, "I was not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel" Mt. 15:24.

e. But, she came and worshipped Him saying, “Lord help me” v. 25. Her persistence was brought about by her faith in the Lord and her love for her daughter.

f. And he said to her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children’s bread and cast it to the dogs.” Mk. 7:27.

1. The word *dogs* is a diminutive form (little dogs) or a household pet.

2. Jesus was referencing the focus of His mission was the house of Israel. He would demonstrate the universality of His mission by including this woman in His graciousness.

g. Her faith once again drives her persistence, “Yea, Lord, even the dogs under the table eat of the children’s crumbs” (Mk. 7:28).

h. Jesus was impressed by her faith! “For this saying, go thy way, the demon is gone out of thy daughter.” The demon left and never returned.

1. Jesus assessed this woman’s faith, “O woman great is thy faith.” Matt. 15:28.

2. The woman receives what she asked for. A great blessing is bestowed.

IV. GREAT FAITH.

a. She asked before she received. “Ye have not because ye ask not” James 4:2.

b. She asked repeatedly. She was persistent.

c. She asked humbly. View of herself in Jesus’ presence.

d. She asked respectfully. View of Jesus and recognition of His Lordship.

e. She asked in faith. Faith becomes stronger in the face of dire circumstances.

f. She asked for a crumb and received a miracle. The graciousness of the Lord is unsurpassed!

Conclusion.

Great faith precedes great requests and both precede great blessings from a great and gracious Lord!