

Lessons from a Desperate Momma

Matthew 15:22-28

Introduction: To begin with this morning I want to show you two verses to set the stage for what we are going to look at today.

Matthew 11:28

²⁸ Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

John 6:37

³⁷ All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Jesus promises that when we come to Him, we will not be cast out and He will give us what we need. The problem is that sometimes we struggle to come to Him. Several things can keep us away.

- **Pride.**
- **Busy schedule.**
- **Lack of faith.**
- **Influence of others.**
- **Distractions.**
- **Self-confidence.**

Today we are going to look into the life of a momma who was determined to get to Jesus on behalf of her daughter.

I. Her Character

Notice Matthew 15:22

There are two points to see concerning this woman here.

1. She was a Canaanite woman.

This woman was a representative of many women in the world. As a Canaanite she would be considered an enemy of the Jews as well as a person with no hope.

Ephesians 4:11-12

*¹¹ Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past **Gentiles** in the flesh, who are called **Uncircumcision** by that which is called the **Circumcision** in the flesh made by hands;*

¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

Application: This is where many people are in our world today. They are enemies of God and they are going through life with no hope and without God. This is one of, if not the most frightening statements to be made about an unsaved person. Going through life with no hope and going through this life without God. Just walking dead people and at anytime they could die in their sins and be plunged into hell.

But there is an offer of HOPE to you if this is you. Jesus promises that if you come to Him, He will not cast you out and He will give you rest. With that He will give you HOPE if you will repent and trust in Him as your Saviour.

Let us understand that it does not matter where a person lives. They can live in Caanan or in Moab and still sit down in the Kingdom with the Lord one day. One might live in the family of the most Godly parents and yet still be an unbeliever. Or someone may live in a family deep in darkness and sin and they can come out and be a great testimony for the Lord.

2. She was a woman of deep anxiety.

Notice Matthew 15:22

Her daughter was vexed with a demon and therefore her own soul was vexed. A mother truly feels the pain that her children experience and when they are grieved, she too is grieved. Might I say that this is not all bad for this woman. She could not see the light in the darkness of the situation at the time but it was there and we can truly see it. If it was not for this situation with her daughter being vexed, she may never have met the Saviour. This affliction would turn out to be a blessing to this woman.

Application:

We too experience times of affliction and they are all by design. There is a purpose for every cross we are called to bear. Notice the words of the Psalmist.

Psalm 119:67-68, 71

⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

⁶⁸ Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.

⁷¹ It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

Notice the words of Ryle.

"There is nothing which shows our ignorance so much as our impatience under trouble [Under pressure]. We forget that every cross is a message from God, and intended to do us good in the end. Trials are intended to make us think, —to wean us from the world, —to send us to the Bible, —to drive us to our knees. Health is a good thing; but sickness is far better, if it leads us to God. Prosperity is a great mercy, but adversity is a greater one, if it brings us to Christ. Anything, anything is better than living in carelessness, and dying in sin. Better a thousand times be afflicted, like the Canaanitish mother, and like her flee to Christ, than live at ease, like the rich "fool," and die at last without Christ and without hope."

II. Her Difficulties

Notice Matthew 15:22-23

1. The silence of Jesus.

When she pleaded with Jesus, He never said a Word to her. His silence was for a purpose here and ultimately it was to draw more faith from this woman.

Application:

One of the most difficult things to deal with when we are in need is the silence of our God. You plead with Him to change the circumstances or to take away the pain or to turn a wayward son or daughter but we hear nothing. The most common result in these situations is to give up on prayer and try in our own strength to change the situation. Let me just remind you that in this text before us this desperate woman would continue to seek the Lord's power until she got an answer.

Sometimes in our lives there can be long periods of silence.

Genesis 25:20-26

²⁰ And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padanaram, the sister to Laban the Syrian.

²¹ And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

²² And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD.

²³ And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

²⁴ And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb.

²⁵ And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau.

²⁶ And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.

Isaac prayed for his wife for 20 years before he was answered. Notice the silence in the life of Abraham.

Genesis 16:15-16

¹⁵ And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael.

¹⁶ And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.

Genesis 17:1-2

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

² And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

Here we find a gap of silence that lasted 13 years.

God allows us to go through these times of silence to draw out our faith. It is to strengthen our faith in Him.

Hebrews 11:1-2, 6

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

² For by it the elders obtained a good report.

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that **diligently** seek him.

2. The coldness of the disciples.

Notice Matthew 15:23

These men were not concerned for the Canaanite woman. It appears that when Jesus would not listen, she then went to His disciples to get them to intervene for her.

Application:

Might this never be us! They saw this woman as an outcast and they desired that Jesus would just send her away. Might we NEVER be people who live in such a way that we turn others away from Jesus Christ. Let us live in a way that draws others to the Saviour. Like Jesus let us be gentle, and kind, and encouraging in all our treatment of those who are seeking to escape the ways of the world. Above all, let us tell others that they must not judge the love of Jesus by Christians. Let us assure them that there is far more in that gracious Master, than there is in the best of His servants. Peter, and James, and John may say to the afflicted soul, "Send her away." But such a word never came from the lips of Christ. He may sometimes keep us long waiting, as He did this woman. But He will never send us empty away.

Isaiah 42:1-3, 6

Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

² *He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.*

³ **A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench:** *he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.*

⁶ *I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;*

3. Her unworthiness.

Notice Matthew 15:24-26

She was not a Jew therefore she had no claim on any of the promises of God. Again, she was without hope. Apart from grace there was not a chance of her seeing the power of the Lord.

Application:

None of us are worthy to come to the Lord on our own. We are all sinners who were enemies of God. BUT grace has made a way for us to come into the presence of the Lord. Maybe you feel so unworthy to seek the Lord's blessing and if that is the case you need to be reminded of grace. Grace is greater than all of our sin. Jesus has made a way for us to come to Him at any time.

III. Her Persistence

Notice Matthew 15:27-28

She understood that she was not of Israel and did not desire to take blessings away from them, all she wanted was a small blessing that would set her daughter free. This woman's faith is in contrast with the 1st century Jews. They rejected Jesus but she worshipped Him. This entire event is recorded to show the Jews and us what Jesus desires from people.

Application:

We see in this great encouragement to persevere in prayer. It is a blessing to us and to those we are praying for. Listen again to the words of Ryle.

"The prayer of this afflicted mother at first seemed entirely unnoticed: Jesus "answered her not a word." Yet she prayed on. —The saying which by and bye fell from our Lord's lips sounded discouraging: "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Yet she prayed on, "Lord, help me." The second saying of our Lord was even less encouraging than the first: "It is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to the dogs." Yet "hope deferred" did not "make her heart sick." Even then she was not silenced. Even then she finds a plea for some "crumbs" of mercy to be granted to her. And her importunity obtained at length a gracious reward. "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt." That promise never yet was broken, "Seek and ye shall find."

Conclusion:

Maybe you're thinking, "That's easy for you to preach, but you don't know what I'm facing this morning." The beauty of this story is that it was not the faith of the demon-possessed girl that brought healing, it was the faith of her loving mother. If you cannot come up with enough faith, learn to trust in the faith of those around you. God honors their faith on your behalf. Never underestimate the prayers and faith of others on your behalf. Mighty God, grant us all great faith such as this mother had.

Psalm 34:18

¹⁸ The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.