



There's More To Jesus
The Syro-Phoenician Woman
Matthew 15:21-28/Mark 7:24-30
May 22nd -28th, 2016

Warm Up: In this week's encounter we see Jesus on a mission trip to meet a woman who must clear many hurdles; several of which are *placed* there by Jesus. Have you ever thought this way about our Lord? That, at times, He may actually prove his faithfulness by testing our faith with obstacles? What does this tell you about Jesus?

- ❖ Read **Matthew 15:21-28** aloud. In **verses 21 & 22** we learn *where* this woman is from and *why* she has come to Jesus.
 - It would seem this woman knew something about who Jesus was. What make this so unusual? What did she know?
- ❖ In **verse 23** we see Jesus' response, or lack thereof, to this woman's plea.
 - Have you ever experienced silence from Jesus? How did this make you feel?
- ❖ Read **verses 24 - 27** silently.
 - Why was Jesus holding back?
 - How did the woman respond at each obstacle? (verse 25, 27)
 - From the words and actions of this woman what can we learn in how we might want to encounter our Lord?
- ❖ Pastor George mentioned that "*One bread crumb from the table of Jesus is more than enough for us*" and he asked us if our prayer lives have become stale, general, or lacking in vibrancy. How would you answer that?
- ❖ This week we were asked whether or not we are persistent in prayer and encouraged to consider if we have *real*, *specific*, and *deep* conversations with the Lord. Pastor George listed out 3 benefits of being persistent in prayer. Which of the following resonates most deeply and why?:
 1. Persistence in prayer clarifies what we really want
 2. Persistence in prayer demands waiting on God, and this is the fertile ground of spiritual growth
 3. Persistence in prayer purifies our desires and draws us closer to the will of God
- ❖ We also were given 4 reasons why we *may* be experiencing unanswered prayers (SUDS): 1. **S**inful patterns which are willful and deliberate. 2. **U**nforgiveness. 3. **D**oubt and **D**isbelief. 4. **S**elfish motives
 - Share personally how one or more of these led to unanswered prayers?
 - How did you break through?

Wrap Up: Read **Luke 11: 9-10** and remember that these are Jesus' direct words to us! End your time in prayer asking God, through the power of His Spirit, to enliven your prayer lives! **Ask** of Him. **Seek** Him. Keep **Knocking** on His door!