

Recipe for Great Faith

Matthew 15:21-28

Introduction:

- Teachable moments are important
 1. Jesus had told His disciples earlier, “O you of little faith (e.g. Matt 6:30; 8:26; 14:31).
 2. Jesus told a non-Jewish woman, “Your faith is great” (Matt 16:28).
 3. Was this a teachable moment for His disciples?
- Let today’s lesson be a teachable moment for you as this passage gives us a recipe for great faith.

A cupful of dependency on the Lord’s mercy (21,22)

- Who was this woman of great faith?
 1. A Canaanite – descendants from the original occupants of the promised land.
 2. A Hellenist (Mk 7:26) - one who adopted the Greek ways
- Her daughter was demon-possessed
 1. Some demon-possession was unclean (Acts 16:16)
 2. Some demon-possession was tame (Matt 12:22)
 3. Some demon possession was tame (Matt 5:5)
- She cried out for mercy
 1. She called Jesus, Lord
 - a. This word could mean servant or master
 - b. This word was used to refer to the name of God.
 - c. Paul teaches that to confess Jesus as Lord is to confess Him as the God of the Old Testament.
 - 1) Act 16:31 – believe in the Lord, Jesus
 - 2) Rom 10:9,13 – if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord...you will be saved. For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved (a quote from Joel 2:32 referring to Yahweh).
 2. She called Jesus, the Son of David - the title given to the promised Messiah
- Application
 1. Dependency is not to be generic (e.g. a helper power) but specific (the God-man, Jesus)
 2. Dependency is on His mercy, for we deserve nothing from Him (e.g. a solution to our ill-health; provision for our

needs; spiritual strength to make it through a difficult day; safety from all harm).

3. Are you crying out for His mercy? (for yourself, for others)

Stir in prayer with increasing p_____ (23-25)

● Note the progression of the woman's petition

1. A single but u_____ request (v. 22)
2. Became persistent in getting her request h_____ through the apostles (v. 23)
3. Threw herself at the f_____ of Jesus (v. 25).

● Don't fall for the teaching that praying more than once for something is lack of faith. Jesus taught the opposite (Lk 11)

1. He teaches His disciples how to p_____
2. He illustrates it with a story of a man who persistently asked his f_____ to give him food for his unexpected guest.
3. He applies the illustration by commanding us to continually a_____, seek, and k_____.

● Application – what is heavy on your heart?

The salvation of someone you know? Your future?

A broken relationship? Other? (stir in persistent prayer)

Saturate everything with the Lord's w_____ (26-28)

● Jesus's initial response – *It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.*

1. The Greeks Bible has two words for dog
 - a. A w_____ dog, which was considered unclean.
 - b. A l_____ dog, which was a household pet.
2. Jesus was comparing the woman to a pet dog, the children to the Jewish people, and the bread as His m_____.

● The woman's reply

1. She a_____ with the Lord's word. – *Yes, Lord.*
2. She just wanted the c_____ from her master's table. (i.e. she wanted whatever leftovers Jesus had to give her)

● Application – this requires us to allow Jesus's word to take up residence in our lives (Jn 15:7) - Look up these scriptures (2 Tim 3:16; Heb 1:1,2; Col 3:16; Jn 8:31,32; Ps 119:11; Matt 4:4)

Conclusion: - Great faith is m_____. Sometimes we will have little faith. But Jesus wants us to have great faith. Jesus wants to say: *Your faith is great. It shall be done for you as you wish.*