

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY
JANUARY 1, 2020
MATTHEW 15:21-28

INTRODUCTION:

1. Everything that we say and do originate from the heart. (Matt. 15.11)
 - a) The heart is the origin of our thinking. (Prov. 23.7)
 - b) The heart is the origin of our emotions. (Matt. 22.37)
 - c) The heart is the origin of our decisions. (Rom. 6.17)
2. How do we keep our hearts pure? (Ps. 119.11)
3. In Matthew 15.21-28, we read about Jesus healing a gentile woman's daughter.

I. THE LOCATION

- A. **MATTHEW 15.21:** *"departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon."*
 1. Tyre was a city within the region of Phoenicia with a long history of immorality and was often the target of God's judgment. (Jer. 25.15,16,27-30,22; Ezek. 28.1,2,6-10)
 2. Jesus praised Tyre and Sidon for their willingness to repent. (Matt. 11.20-22)
 3. Why did Jesus go to this Gentile region? (Matt. 10.5,6; Mark 7.24)
- B. **MATTHEW 15.22:** *"And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region"*
 1. This was a woman who was *"Greek, a Syrophenician by birth"* (Mark 7.26)
 2. The fame of Jesus had spread all the way north to Phoenicia and Syria.
 - a) The people of Tyre and Sidon came to be healed by Jesus. (Mark 3.8)
 - b) After the great tribulation, the disciples were scattered preaching the gospel all the way north in Phoenicia and Syria. (Acts 8.1,4; 11.19; 21.2-6)
 3. She calls Him, *"Lord, Son of David"* recognizing Him as the Messiah.

II. THE INTERACTION

- A. There is a mother's desperation.
 1. **MATTHEW 15.22:** *"a woman of Canaan came from that region"* Mark tells us that *"she came and fell at His feet"* (Mark 7.26). Notice the desperation.
 2. **MATTHEW 15.22:** *"and cried out to Him."*
 - a) *"Cried out"* (krauge): "a cry of sorrow, wailing, a cry for help."
 - b) **MARK 7.26:** *"she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter."*
 3. **MATTHEW 15.22:** *"Have mercy on me"*
 - a) Literally, have compassion. Imperative. "You've got to help me."
 - b) **MATTHEW 15.22:** *"My daughter is severely demon-possessed."*
- B. There is a mother's adoration.
 1. **MATTHEW 15.23:** *"But He answered her not a word."* Suggests a test of faith.
 2. **MATTHEW 15.24:** *"But He answered and said, 'I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.'" (Rom. 1.16; Acts 3.26; 10.28,29)*
 3. **MATTHEW 15.25:** *"Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Lord, help me!'"*
- C. There is a mother's subjugation.
 1. **MATTHEW 15.26:** *"But He answered and said, 'It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.'" Family vs pets.*
 2. **MATTHEW 15.27:** *"And she said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.'" She recognized her place in God's plan.*
 3. **MATTHEW 15.28:** *"Then Jesus answered and said to her, 'O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.' And her daughter was healed from that very hour."*

