

Coming to the One who can help.

This morning, Monday 6th April, I was reading Matthew 15:21-28 and as usual was asking God is there something in this passage that He wanted to show me, especially something about Himself, Jesus or what He wanted me to do etc. Also I was wondering if there was anything that related to these times.

Why not ask God these same questions and read for yourself and write down what you see in this passage, things you already knew but is helpful to be reminded of and maybe something you haven't seen before.



The Faith of a Canaanite Woman – Matthew 15:21-28

²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”

²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”

²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”

²⁵ The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said.

²⁶ He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Matthew tells us Jesus “withdrew” to Tyre and Sidon. He withdrew, at this time, from ministering among his own people the Jews, throughout Galilee and Judea, where he had been teaching and healing “all” who came to him or were brought to him for healing. Jesus broke from his normal ministry and travelled from Galilee to Tyre region, an equivalent distance of Lithgow to Bathurst, probably for that rest from the crowds he had been seeking. Mark 7:24-30 speaks about this account as well and mentions he tried to stay in a house without anyone knowing his presence.

What can we learn from this woman’s experience with Jesus.?

1. How come this woman living outside Judaism knew to appeal to Jesus as “Son of David”, which title the Jews applied to their own expected Messiah who was coming to help the Jews? And she was not a Jew. We are not told how she knew, but the main thing is she believed and came to Jesus, she sought him out.

So what is the importance of this for us today in our troubled times?

Currently much mention is being made of the importance of “having faith”.

How does faith help us? Whether or not faith, or having confidence, will help us depends on what our confidence is in.

What did Jesus being “Son of David” mean to this woman? Whatever it was, the main thing for her was, Jesus was the only one she believed could help her. And she was correct.

We can have faith and confidence during these days because we can come to our God, the Father of our Lord Jesus and look to him for help.

We have a lot more knowledge of our Father and Jesus than this woman did and what he is doing. Our thinking is not just “everything will be OK!”. We are relying not on the fact we have faith, but on our all powerful and loving Father God whose help we’ve experienced before.

Good to read Romans 8:31-32.

2. Before we think Jesus was harsh with the woman, she did receive what she requested.

The woman was calling out for Jesus’ attention and help. The disciples notice she is not going to stop calling out until Jesus helps her, so why doesn’t he just heal her so she can leave them alone. Notice that it was in responding to the disciples (contrary to NLT) that Jesus says he was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel. It is with these thoughts in His mind and in the hearing of the disciples that Jesus responds to the woman referring to “children” and “dogs”.

Jesus often used occasions like this to draw out people’s faith and understanding. It wasn’t the first time “knowing what he would do.” John 6:6.

3. The woman’s faith and persistence led to her daughter being healed. She did receive the mercy she begged for.

Even though it might appear at times that Jesus is not listening, He is, and in His time, will answer according to His wisdom and mercy. That’s because our God **is actually** merciful.

4. This woman was outside the family of Israel, however we have been brought into God’s family and care as his children through the death of His Son. 1 John 3:1,2.

As such, unlike this woman, we are encouraged to approach God with confidence in times of need. Hebrews 4:16 “ **Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**”