

**YET THE DOGS UNDER
THE TABLE EAT OF THE
CHILDREN'S CRUMBS
MARK 7:24-30**

Text: Mark 7:27

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²⁷ But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* unto the dogs.

Introduction:

In this text, a burdened mother locates Jesus. She begins to petition Him for the help she needs. She faces several challenges, but she persists and she gets what she came for.

1. THE MOTHER AND HER REQUEST (VS. 25-26)

Mark 7:25-26

²⁵ For a *certain* woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet: ²⁶ The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

A. The Reason She Came

This woman came to Jesus because she was concerned about her daughter. The child was demon possessed and was probably acting out in violence and anger.

B. The Reason She Cried (Matt. 15:23)

Matthew 15:23

²³ But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

This woman was shouting to Jesus for the help she needed. Why was she so frantic? She was heartbroken over the condition of her child and she was determined to get her child the help she needed.

C. The Reason She Called (vs. 25)

Mark 7:25

²⁵ For a *certain* woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet:

It says that this woman had “Heard of Him.”

Perhaps she had heard about how Jesus had healed all manner of diseases; about how He had opened the eyes of the blind and unstopped the ears of the deaf; about how He had driven the demons from other people. She may have heard about how Jesus had gone

over into the country of the Gaderenes and had delivered the man possessed by a legion of demons.

This woman came to Jesus because faith and hope had been aroused in her heart. She needed something that society had not been able to provide. She was looking for something that her dead religion had been powerless to give her. She needed a solution that she had not been able to provide by her own self-efforts. She was desperate and she saw Jesus as her only hope!

2. THE MOTHER AND HER RESOLVE (vs. 27-28)

Mark 7:27-28

²⁷ But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* unto the dogs.

²⁸ And she answered and said unto him, Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs.

This woman comes to Jesus for help and when she doesn't get the response she imagines, she remains persistent until she gets what she wants.

Notice:

A. The Obstacles (vs. 23-27)

1. The Obstacle of Race (vs. 26)

Mark 7:26

²⁶ The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

Matthew 15:22

²² And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, *thou* Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

We learn two things about this mother:

- She was a descendant of a cursed people.

When Joshua led the people of Israel into Canaan, they had been commanded to totally destroy the Canaanites.

Deuteronomy 7:2

² And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, *and* utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:

She was a member of a doomed race.

- She was from a region known for vile religious practices

2. The Obstacle of Religion

She came to Jesus and called out to Him and said, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David". Here she was a Gentile mother crying out to the Jewish

Messiah. She had no right to come to Jesus through the door of Judaism.

She was a Gentile and according to Matt. 15:23, Jesus gave her the response she deserved: "He answered her not a word."

Matthew 15:23

²³ But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

3. The Obstacle of Racism

When the disciples see and hear this Gentile calling out to their Messiah, they react by telling Jesus to send her away! They wanted nothing to do with her. She was not one of their people! In their eyes, she was different and that was enough to justify them not caring about her at all.

4. The Obstacle of Rejection

As Jesus speaks to this woman, His words appear harsh to our ears. His words must have shaken her.

His words probably broke her heart.

Matthew 15:23-26

²³ But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. ²⁴

But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ²⁵ Then came she and worshipped him,

saying, Lord, help me. ²⁶ But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* to dogs.

First, the Lord simply ignores her.

Then, He tells her that His whole purpose in coming to this world was to reach the lost sheep of Israel.

The disciples rejected her and now it appears that Jesus is rejecting her too.

B. The Opportunities

Jesus says, “Let the children first be filled...” That word “first” was exactly what this broken hearted mother needed to hear! Jesus did not say, “You cannot have what you are looking for!” He said, “I have come to the children of Israel. And, they must be filled first.” She took that to mean that “seconds” were available.

These obstacles that were thrown up by the Lord Jesus were not placed there to discourage and defeat this lady. The obstacles were placed there to mature her faith. Watch the progression.

Matthew 15:22

²² And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, *thou* Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

Mark 7:25

²⁵ For a *certain* woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet:

- She calls on Jesus based on His role as the Jewish Messiah. She has no right to approach Him on that ground.

Matthew 15:24-25

²⁴ But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ²⁵ Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

Mark 7:27

²⁷ But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* unto the dogs.

- She hears Jesus tell her that His mission here on this earth is to the nation of Israel. When she hears this, she moves beyond seeing Him as a Jewish Messiah. She now sees Him as her only hope. She sees Him as being worthy of worship.

Matthew 15:26-27

²⁶ But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* to dogs. ²⁷ And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

Mark 7:27

²⁷ But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* unto the dogs.

- Now, she hears Jesus compare her to a dog. The Jews looked at all non-Jewish people as dogs. However the word used her by the Lord meant little puppy, a beloved pet in a house. It refers to an animal that is looked on as a part of the family.
- The image here is of a beloved puppy sitting under the table while the family eats a meal. It sits there hoping and expecting that someone will slip it a morsel of food. The puppy can see the food. It can smell the food. It knows what it wants is within easy reach. It just needs someone to acknowledge it and give it a bite.

She says all I'm asking for is a crumb.

3. THE MOTHER AND HER REWARD (vs. 29-30)

Mark 7:29-30

²⁹ And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter. ³⁰ And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.

A. The Lord Responds to Her Faith

He was amazed by the depth of her faith! In fact, this woman is only one of two people Jesus referred to as having “great faith”, Matt. 15:28

Matthew 15:28

²⁸ Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great *is* thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

The other person was a Roman Centurion who came to Jesus to have Jesus heal a sick servant. Amazingly, both of these people were Gentiles!

Jesus had tested her faith with hard words and her faith had risen to the challenge! Her faith exceeded that of the people he had come to save! Here was a Gentile dog that had more faith than the Jewish scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees and priests. This kind of faith excites the Lord!

B. The Lord Rewarded Her Faith

He rewarded her faith by giving her exactly what she asked for; He healed her daughter! Her faith was so strong that she didn't ask for proof, but she took Jesus at His word and turned around and went home to her family. When she arrived home, she found her daughter healed and her family restored! What a blessing!

Close:

Regardless of what you need today, you can come to Jesus and you can get it. Even if you have sought Him for it in the past and received no answer, today might be the day when He says to you what He said to this mother in Matt. 15:28, "Be it unto thee even as thou wilt."