

“Undignified”

Matt 15:21-28

Scripture Ref: 2 Sam 6

A few weeks ago we talked about the storms that sometimes come into our lives, and that we need to remember that during those storms Jesus has not forgotten us. Rather He is watching and praying for us, that He will come to us, that He will help us grow through it, and that He will see us through it.

This week we will encounter a woman who was in the midst of a storm, and she has come to Jesus for deliverance. But before He moves, Jesus wants to build something into her – the importance of worship from your heart.

21 Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon.
22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

1. **This woman that is approaching Jesus, lets note that she already has several things working against her:**
 - a. **Her gender was against her: She was a woman in a time when women were little more than property. It was socially inappropriate for her to approach Jesus.**
 - b. **Here race was against her: She is a Canaanite, who were mortal enemies of the Israelites. It was politically incorrect for her to approach Jesus.**
 - c. **Her religion was against her: The Canaanites didn't worship the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, they worshipped the pagan gods Baal and Ashteroth. It was spiritually heretical for her to approach Jesus.**
 - d. **Finally, because she had a daughter that was demon-possessed, she would have been stigmatized. People would have considered her family to be cursed, and would have nothing to do with her.**
2. **Now what is interesting here is how she approached Jesus, using the term “Son of David.”**
 - a. **You see the Jews knew that God had promised to send the Messiah through the line of David, a Son that would establish the throne of David forever, and that when He came the blind would see and the lame would walk.**
 - b. **So the Jews that recognized Jesus as the Messiah often referred to Him as “Son of David.”**
 - c. **So, this Canaanite woman is coming to Jesus, and perhaps trying to get Him to respond to her request by using that term – the term that she had borrowed from the Jewish believers.**

3. What could be wrong with that? People do that all the time...
 - a. When I was in the Navy and we made port in Perth Australia, after a few days some of the sailors started sounding like Aussies – using their slang and even adopting an Aussie accent!
 - b. I remember when I worked in a large company, there were all these terms and phrases that people used – you had to learn all the lingo and the TLA's (three letter acronyms).
 - c. People do this to assimilate, to be included, to become part of the group.
4. It happens in Christian circles: we have our own set of Christian social habits that we practice;
 - a. Even notice that when Christians come pray, there are all these little phrases that become common – sort of 'prayer vocabulary. Things like...
 - i. Lord, bind the enemy
 - ii. Put a hedge of protection around us
 - iii. Open a door for us...
 - iv. Or maybe the prayer is opened with a 'Oh most gracious and loving heavenly Father, most high and anointed, sitting on the throne and watching over us... on and on!
 - b. Or when we worship – a new person in a church will stand and look around – “what are these people doing?”
 - i. You have the “hug me” folks
 - ii. The “windshield washer” folks
 - iii. The “lift up the watermelon folks”
 - iv. The “good hands” folks
 - c. when a person first comes into the family of God, some of these things may seem strange, but after a while they get with the program!
5. But the point I am making is this – we want to be careful not to 'imitate' our way into an encounter with God.
 - a. An encounter with God is not initiated by a ritual or a tradition...
 - b. Pray this way – do this thing during worship – be sure and close your eyes
 - c. And I believe that it perhaps why this woman's approach to Jesus was met with the following response:

23 But He answered her not a word.

6. Not a word – Jesus did not respond at all.
 - a. On the surface one might think Jesus is being uncaring, or racist

- b. And not only did Jesus not answer, his disciples were getting tired of her as well...**

And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

- 7. so its not looking good for the Canaanite women – Jesus isn't talking, the disciples are lobbying to have her sent away...**
 - a. But in reality Jesus has a purpose in his non-answer; He is bringing this Canaanite woman to a true encounter –**
 - b. And we know this because... we can read the rest of the story!**

24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

- 8. Jesus is not being exclusive – but simply stating the fact of His calling, first to the nation of Isreal**
 - a. But that did not stop this woman**

25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" 26 But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." 27 And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." 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.

- 9. This whole interaction speaks volumes about what is important to God –**
 - a. See this woman had come to Jesus trying to “act the part” – certainly her motives were pure – she wanted deliverance for her daughter.**
 - b. And Jesus was not going to not meet that need, but there was a purpose in how He responded.**
 - c. And I think it goes to the heart of where our relationship with God is – how we approach Him.**
- 10....I believe it is what prompted Jesus' statement to her... *“It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs”***
 - a. In other words – “do you know what you are asking me? You're asking me to break tradition, to go outside of the religious circle of the Jewish outreach”**
 - b. And her statement to Him proved that she ‘got it’ – that while Jesus was first sent to the nation of Israel, salvation is for ALL – Jew and gentile alike!**

- 11. Maybe some storm hits your life and you need deliverance –**

- a. **And maybe you heard about someone prayed a certain prayer, or someone followed the steps in a certain book, or someone went to a certain conference – and they were healed!**
 - b. **And so you ask “what was that prayer?” or “how did you hold your hands?”**
 - c. **So you pray the prayer of deliverance or the prayer of Jabez, or you go to that healing service, or you listen to that same worship song and hold your hands just so.. and NOTHING happens. Jesus is silent – He doesn’t respond.**
 - i. **The Canaanite woman was in the same situation – she had the right formula, but she failed miserably,**
 - d. **On one hand, we can think that Jesus doesn’t care, or that He loves your friend more than you – or that your friend is more “in touch” with God than you are.**
 - i. **Perhaps you are the wrong race – or gender – or in the wrong church – or you are cursed....**
 - e. **Or, maybe we can do like the Canaanite woman finally did - she tossed out her formula and just worshiped Jesus!**
- 12. In 2 Samuel 6, David was bringing the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem, and along the way King David danced before the Lord – in his underwear!**
- a. **Michal, the daughter of Saul, saw it and thought “Oh no, there he goes again”**
 - b. **And when came into the palace, Michal made a sarcastic comment:**

2 Sam 6:20-22

"How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!"

21 So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD. 22 And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor."

- c. **David notes to Michal “remember your dad? He thought he was royal and regal, yet God chose me over him because his heart was not for the Lord.**
- d. **“My heart is for the Lord” David told her, “and I am not afraid to show it!”**

13. The place Jesus led this woman to, the place that King David lived – the place He wants to lead each of us to –

- a. To the place where we toss aside all of those traditions, the proper prayer vernacular, the correct worship style, and just come before Him and worship Him!**

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