

# POWER HOUR

4/28/2024

Lesson Text:  
Matthew 15:21-28

Background Scripture:  
Matthew 15:21-28

Devotional Reading:  
Psalms 61

“FAITH OF AN A CANAANITE”

NLT TRANSLATION

Learning Facts: To summarize Jesus' encounter with a Gentile (Canaanite) woman.

Biblical Principle: [To understand Jesus' mission.](#)

Daily Application: To understand Jesus' mission.

## Matthew 15:21-28 NLT

**21** Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre and Sidon. **22** A Gentile woman who lived there came to him, pleading, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! For my daughter is possessed by a demon that torments her severely.” **23** But Jesus gave her no reply, not even a word. Then his disciples urged him to send her away. “Tell her to go away,” they said. “She is bothering us with all her begging.” **24** Then Jesus said to the woman, “I was sent only to help God's lost sheep—the people of Israel.” **25** But she came and worshiped him, pleading again, “Lord, help me!” **26** Jesus responded, “It isn't right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs.” **27** She replied, “That's true, Lord, but even dogs are allowed to eat the scraps that fall beneath their masters' table.” **28** “Dear woman,” Jesus said to her, “your faith is great. Your request is granted.” And her daughter was instantly healed.

## HOW TO SAY IT

<b>Canaanite</b>	<b>Kay-nu-nite</b>
<b>Phoenicians</b>	<b>Fuh-nish-unz.</b>
<b>Syrophenician</b>	<b>Sigh-roe-fih-nish-un.</b>

## LESSON CONTEXT

The events leading to the Scripture text reveal the intended expansion of the gospel message. Jesus practiced His teaching by going into Gentile territory. He left Israel and withdrew again, this time into the area of Tyre and Sidon. The Gentiles were “unclean” as

far as the Jews were concerned. Jews referred to the Gentiles as "dogs." That Jesus would minister to Gentiles was no surprise (Matthew 12:17-21), though at that time, the emphasis was on ministering to Israel (Matthew 10:5-6).

As Jesus' ministry in Galilee drew to a close, it became evident that His people would reject Him and His mission (see Matthew 13:53-58). His disciples oftentimes failed to understand His teaching (Matthew 15:12-20). Even the religious leaders were offended by Jesus' message (Matthew 15:1-9). The people most expected to accept Jesus and His mission failed to understand. Mark 7:24-30 is a parallel account of Matthew 15:21-28. As you read the lesson, consider which character in the story with whom you most identify. Do you align with the (outsider) woman or the (insider) disciples? Either option will affect how you view God's gracious and generous blessings.

## **CONCLUSION**

### **Great Faith for God's People**

The woman in the lesson was the ultimate "outsider" to a first-century Jewish audience. She was aware of the biases against her. The deck would be stacked against her if she approached a Jewish teacher. Despite that awareness, she came to Jesus anyway. Her desperate situation and her suffering daughter necessitated a bold act.

The woman's behavior revealed a persistent and great faith. As a result, she received mercy from the Son of David. She was considered an "outsider" to some people, but she was an "insider" because of her life of faith.

This Scripture text invites us to desire a life of great faith. What blessings do we fail to receive because we limit or misplace our faith? A life of great faith requires steadfast confidence that God will show mercy to everyone. How does your perspective need to change in this regard?

## **QUESTION(S)**

- What steps can we take to increase our faith in God before we see Him act?
- What steps will you take to address possible roadblocks that challenge your faith?

## **PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, we are grateful to be part of Your family. Reveal to us the things that prevent us from having great faith. Encourage us when we feel unable to show persistent faith. Give us eyes to see people we consider "outsiders" so we can invite them to experience Your great mercy. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**THOUGHT TO REMEMBER**

Live by great faith!

**ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON**

Next week's lesson is "Justified by Faith" and summarizes Paul's teaching on salvation by faith in Christ's sacrifice, not by works. Study Romans 3:21-30.