



# The Syrophenician Woman

Mark 7:24-30, Hebrews 11:1

# Background

- Jesus had just finished feeding the 5,000.
- He walked on water to a boat His disciples were rowing.
- When they landed, Jesus was recognized, and people brought all their sick out to be healed.
- The Pharisees cornered Him and gave Him the third degree.
- Jesus went to the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon, northwest of the Sea of Galilee.



# Map of Tyre and Sidon



# Seclusion

- Jesus had achieved celebrity status because He had become known as a miracle worker.
- The purpose of Jesus' movement into this region was not to go on a missionary journey to the Gentiles/Greeks.
- Jesus sought rest from the pressing multitudes and debates that He had been going through.
- After Jesus arrived, He secluded Himself in a house not wanting anyone to know He was there.
- We have no information in the Gospels about what kind of house Jesus went into or why.
- This is the only time in the record of Jesus' life that He was seen leaving the borders of Israel and going directly into a pagan land.



# Demon Possession

- When someone got sick and they could not determine what the illness was, the people would label it as demon possession.
- Because we live in America, we discount the idea that there may be some spiritual root to many psychological problems.
- In third world countries demonic possession is still quite common.
- The Syrophenician woman had no right, at least in the Jewish culture, to seek help from someone like Jesus.

# The Syrophoenician Woman

- In the Jewish mind, you were either Jewish or you were Greek.
- To the Jews, any foreigner was considered a Greek because almost all foreigners spoke Greek.
- She had three strikes against her:
  - She was a woman.
  - She was exposed to the worship of foreign gods.
  - She had a demon-possessed daughter.
- Because she had the maternal love of a mother, she sought out Jesus.
- Jesus initially ignored her.



# Hope

- Jesus tested this woman's knowledge of Him and the Jews.
- When Jesus spoke about the children, He was talking about the Jewish people, because they were considered children of God.
- The Jews looked at Gentiles/Greeks, as dogs.
- When the Jews applied the name dog to a Gentile, they were not only saying they were unclean, but they were excluded from God's blessings.
- Because of what Jesus said, the Syrophenician woman saw a window of hope.

# Dogs

- When the Jews used the term dogs, they were thinking in a derogatory sense.
- In many cultures, dogs were esteemed.
- The Greeks treated their dogs like we treat our dogs.
- When Jesus referred to dogs, He was not talking about scavenger dogs.
- The **Syrophoenician** woman understood that Jesus was speaking in parable.
- She knew any good master of the house would let the dog eat its fill of the crumbs that fell off the table.
- She was saying that all I need is a little crumb of God's grace to take care of my daughter.



# Conclusion

- Regardless of being marginalized, the Syrophenician woman was determined to find the Person that could heal her little girl no matter what it took.
- This story of the Syrophenician woman teaches us not to quit praying for our family.
- Prayer is difficult if you make it difficult, but prayer is a discipline.
- Jesus cannot and will not hide His presence from anyone because Jesus is love.
- Do not allow yourself to be marginalized.
- Faith is the currency of God's economy.
- The Syrophenician woman was an extraordinary woman not just because she was a woman of faith, but of the great faith that Jesus saw in her.