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6-8-2020
A TEST OF FAITH

In Matthew 15:21-28 we see a very rare case of Jesus leaving Israel/Judah and going to the Mediterranean coast of Tyre and Sidon occupied by Gentiles. Jews hated gentiles and would not usually even speak to them, much less help them.

A Syrophenician (Canaanite) woman native to the place came to Jesus and pleaded for him to help her daughter who was **“vexed with a devil.”** Jesus ignored her, refusing to answer or acknowledge her. She continued by pleading with his disciples who grew quite annoyed with her. They begged Jesus to send her away.

She did not give up, Jesus finally answered her, telling her he was sent to minister only to the Jews. Then she came and worshipped him, again asking His help. He replied by calling her a dog unworthy even to be fed. She replied (v. 27 paraphrased), **“That is true, Lord, but still the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”**

That moved Jesus with compassion. He said in verse 28 **“Oh woman, great is thy faith; be it unto thee even as thou wilt (wish).”** Her daughter was immediately made whole.

Her faith was greatly tested. She was spurned, but she did not give up. Her persistence in worshipping Jesus, despite everything against her was rewarded. Jesus honored this gentile’s faith and healed her daughter.

Have you ever felt like giving up? Hold on in faith to the word of God. In due time, your faith will be rewarded. Never give up.