

## Persistent Faith (15:21-28)

*15:21 Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon. 15:22 And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed.” 15:23 But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, “Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us.” 15:24 But He answered and said, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” 15:25 But she came and began to bow down [from προσκυνέω] before Him, saying, “Lord, help me!” 15:26 And He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” 15:27 But she said, “Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.” 15:28 Then Jesus said to her, “O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed at once.*

### Among the Nations (15:21-22)

- Other withdrawals (12:14; 14:13).
- 4:12-17, 24-25.

### How Faith Is Refined (15:23-27)

- “I was sent” points to Jesus’ pre-incarnate existence.
- Jesus isn’t adapted to the false religion of her people or region; she approaches Him as He is: the fullness of the promises of the Scriptures given to the children of Abraham.
- Jesus reveals her faith by speaking to her as a Jew would have spoken of a Gentile in that day: as a dog. Does she really see Him as He is?
- The affliction of the child was good because it drove the woman to Christ. No matter how difficult a circumstance may be, if it drives us to Christ, it is good. Better to endure affliction than remain far from Christ. Eternity is at stake every moment.
- The grief of a parent whose child is in spiritual darkness.
- Compare with 10:5-6.
- In the face of silence, and in the call to abandon all pride, the woman persisted more and more in her petition.

- Prayer is to be practiced with patience and perseverance. One who gives up praying because the prayer is not answered soon is one who is weak in faith.
- 1 Peter 1:6-7.
- “Those who are conscious to themselves that they deserve nothing, will be thankful for anything; and then we are prepared for the greatest of God’s mercies, when we see ourselves less than the least of them” (Matthew Henry).
- To seek mercy is to be repentant and humble.
- What seems to be barriers actually differentiates shallow faith from great faith.
- Luke 15:18-19.

### Great Faith (15:28)

- Saved out of the curse of Canaan (like Rahab).
- Matthew 8:10; 12:41-42.
- It is not faith or belief in nothing or everything. It is specific faith, placed on this Jesus Who is the fulfillment of O.T. promises.
- “...in that day  
*The nations will resort to the root of Jesse*” (Isaiah 11:10).
- Romans 15:12.

## To the Glory of God in Christ (15:29-31)

*15:29 Departing from there, Jesus went along by the Sea of Galilee, and having gone up on the mountain, He was sitting there. 15:30 And large crowds came to Him, bringing with them those who were lame, crippled, blind, mute, and many others, and they laid them down at His feet; and He healed them. 15:31 So the crowd marveled as they saw the mute speaking, the crippled restored, and the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.*

### The Fourth Mountain

- This is the fourth of the seven hills/mountains in the Gospel of Matthew (4:8; 5:1; 14:23; 15:29; 17:1; 24:3; 28:16).

- Remember that the Galilee region has been called “the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles” (4:15, quoting from Isaiah 9:1).

### He Healed Them

- Jesus has a very different approach to the crowds “along by the sea of Galilee” (15:29-31) than He does the “Canaanite” woman (15:21-28).
- The healings of Jesus underlined the proclamation of the Gospel (4:23; 9:35; 11:4-5).
- The physical healings were symbolic of the true work of Jesus, which was the spiritual healing of His people.

### Giving Glory to God

- The only other place in the N.T. with the title “God of Israel” is Luke 1:68.
- The crowds gave glory to God because of the merciful, healing work of Jesus (see also 9:8).
  - Matthew records several times when the people “marvel” at the works of God in Christ.<sup>1</sup>
  - The works of God ought to move us to praise Him for His glory – including His work in salvation (Ephesians 1:6,12,14).
- Jesus teaches His disciples to do all they do to the glory of God the Father (5:16), and not to seek the glory of men (6:2).

### Jesus Is Compassionate (15:32-38)

<sup>15:32</sup>And Jesus called His disciples to Him, and said, “I feel compassion [from *σπλαγχνίζομαι*] for the people, because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.”  
<sup>15:33</sup>The disciples said to Him, “Where would we get so many loaves in this desolate place to satisfy such a large crowd?” <sup>15:34</sup>And Jesus said to them, “How many loaves do you have?” And they said,

<sup>1</sup> 8:27; 9:8,33; 15:31; 21:20; 22:22; 27:14.

“Seven, and a few small fish.” <sup>15:35</sup>And He directed the people to sit down on the ground; <sup>15:36</sup>and He took the seven loaves and the fish; and giving thanks, He broke them and started giving them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. <sup>15:37</sup>And they all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, seven large baskets full. <sup>15:38</sup>And those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.

### Compassion for the Needs of the People

- The compassion of Jesus (9:36; 14:14; 18:27; 20:34).

### Thankfulness Led to Ministry

- The thankfulness of Jesus.
- This is a foreshadowing of the Lord’s Supper (28:26-28).

### The Mission Continues (15:39)

<sup>15:39</sup>And sending away the crowds, Jesus got into the boat and came to the region of Magadan.

### Seasons in Service

#### Keeping the Whole Mission in Sight

- Magdala is on the western shore of the sea of Galilee, about three miles from Tiberias.<sup>2</sup>

#### The Need (Headed to War with Seven Demons)

- There He would meet Mary, who is not just described as “Magdalene,” but twice in the Gospels described as one from whom Jesus cast out “seven demons.” She would become a follower (Luke 8:2) and the first one to see Him after His resurrection (Mark 16:9).

<sup>2</sup> Probably “Migdal-el” of Joshua 19:38-39. This is the village of “Mary Magdalene” (Matthew 27:56,61; 28:1; see also Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2; John 20:1,18).