

MOTHER'S DAY

Matthew 15:21-28



WEEK OF 05/10/2026

STUBBORN FAITH THAT CLINGS

MATTHEW 15:21-28

Silence (1-2 minutes)

Sit silently for a minute as a way to center your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to help you listen to and receive God's Word.

Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Read: Matthew 15:21-28

Devotional (30-45 minutes)

We are going to look at a powerful passage in Matthew of a mother who was advocating for her daughter. There are several interesting questions that this story brings up. Often, we read a portion of the bible, and we skim over it, either because it's familiar, or because it doesn't seem relevant. But during this time, let's view this passage as real people interacting in the midst of an unexpected encounter. Let's put ourselves in this day, this time and look, hear, and taste what God is trying to get across. To get our minds thinking let's ponder and reply to this question:

1. Let's suppose that your Uncle Chester is known to be a stubborn sort of guy. What words would you use to describe Uncle Chester? If you aren't a word person, what picture would you draw of Uncle Chester to show his stubbornness?

Matthew 15:21-23 – The Disciples | Let's get some background about what's going on here. The disciples were with Jesus. In Matthew's timeline, they had just seen Jesus walk on water to save them while they were in their boat and that came across to Gennesaret. Gennesaret is a nice, mostly Jewish community known for its fertile, rich soil and its weather. Here Jesus did a lot of work healing people, including those who just touched His robe. Then in verse 21 Jesus is on the move to Tyre and Sidon which are primarily non-Jewish communities. This would have taken 11 to 12 hours of walking to get to Tyre. If you were one of the disciples walking with Jesus when they started north towards Tyre and Sidon...

2. What questions would be on your mind about where Jesus was leading you and your fellow disciples?
3. What would you think Jesus was planning to do in this area?

4. What would you and the other disciples think of this Gentile, Syrophenician woman chasing after them?

Matthew 15:22-28 – The Woman | We don't know this woman's name, but something drives her to Jesus. Mark 7:24-26 tells us she found out about where Jesus was and why she chased Him down. She cries: "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David." She cries with everything she has—and Jesus says nothing. She persists, and Jesus seemingly excludes her. Finally, Jesus begins a parable of a Hebrew family gathering for dinner, and she finishes the story. She has been silenced, excluded, compared to an animal—and she does not storm off. She stays through the silence. She kneels through exclusion. She worships through humiliation. She comes to Jesus for who He is, not merely for what He might do. He is her God. And she is not leaving her God.

5. List the things that you observe about this woman from the passages in Mark.
6. How does the woman see Jesus?
7. What do the woman's responses to Jesus reveal about her character?

Matthew 15:21-28 – Jesus | We almost have the whole picture of what's going on in this passage. They no sooner arrive when this woman comes shouting at Jesus. She checks all the prejudicial boxes for the disciples: She's the woman. She's Canaanite. Her people represent an ancient enemy and a pagan religion. She is not clinging to a miracle—she is clinging to Him. She is not claiming her rights. She is claiming His abundance. The disciples think the story ends with Jesus validating their prejudices. But this woman understands something they do not: Jesus is not defending the walls of Israel. He is dismantling them. She is not a stray. She is a daughter of the King—and she knows it before anyone else in the story does. Now Jesus names what we have been watching all along: not just faith—but stubborn, clinging faith. This is a powerful story and is summed up under the Big Idea: **Stubborn Faith that clings to Christ--Through Silence--When the door slams shut--When life humbles you--opens the floodgate of Grace.**

8. What do you think was Jesus' intention(s) when He went to Tyre and Sidon?
9. For whose ears did Jesus respond to the woman in verse 26, and what was Jesus teaching His disciples in this passage?
10. What are some of the necessary ingredients to developing a stubborn faith in Christ?

Closing Prayer

Father God, your grace is so big, we'll never understand it. Thank you Jesus, for your blood applied that has washed me white. Thank you Jesus for saving my life. Thank you Jesus that You brought me from the darkness into glorious light. Help me to understand Your love and grace so completely that I can show other people just exactly who You are. In your Glorious Name, Amen.

Share Prayer Requests (10-15 minutes)