

CALL to PRAYER -

Thank God for your mother.

Matt. 15:21-28 - A Desperate Mothers Great Trial of Faith

Intro - *Mother's Day* always lands on *the Lord's Day* and today we want to honor them both. To be a wife & mother is the highest calling a woman can attain...^{no greater goal}. Our Lord commands us to honor our mothers for the God given roles they play in our lives. They are the ones who gave us life, nurtured our life, and prepared us for life. In our text today we meet a remarkable mother with amazing faith and a big problem^(her child). Our Lord went out of His way to meet the need of this desperate mother...but He did it in a way that almost rubs us the wrong way. *God's ways are not our ways*^{Is. 55:8-9}...but His ways are best. The Lord of Mercy essentially put an obstacle course in front of this weary woman to test her faith. The way she jumps each hurdle and conquers each difficulty is a testimony to her motherly love and genuine faith which would not be deterred. This unerving tactic also highlights our wise Lord who graciously gave her faith, coaxed it out her, and mercifully met her most dire need. Whether you are a mother, or you have a mother, this account today will both challenge us and encourage us. This woman is a hero of faith and motherhood. DISTANCE SILENCE PATIENCE ACCEPTANCE

DISTANCE

- 15:21 district^{NAS}/region^{NIV}/coast^{KJV}.... of Tyre and Sidon
 - This is an important detail we shouldn't overlook.
 - Jesus goes out of His way to meet this woman and her need.
 - Tyre & Sidon are outside of Israel and Jesus' usual path / stomping grounds.
- Placement/distance between towns in the Bible doesn't automatically register with me.
 - Not my stomping grounds so their relation to each other gets overlooked^{not factored}
 - Helpful to correlate it to a familiar place...like Oklahoma^(South to North)
 - Bethlehem - Jerusalem --- Samaria ---- Nazareth --- Sea of Galilee --- Capernaum
 - Wynnewood - Paul's Valley - OKC -- Edmond ---- Lake Arcadia^{big} --- Guthrie
- Jesus mainly traveled straight up and down I-35 in His life/ministry
 - Born in Wynnewood,^{refugee to west Texas}, grew up in Edmond, headquarter in Guthrie
 - Would go south to Paul's Valley for Passover^(85 mile route N to S)
 - Jesus was in "Guthrie area" at "Big Lake Acadia"*lets walk over to "Enid"*
 - (40-50 miles away to NE) 15:21
- Jesus went way out His way, and normal travels, to meet this desperate woman.
 - Important to note *the distance* for this fact will help us out of a dilemma in a bit.

SILENCE

1. Jesus leaves the Guthrie area and He arrives at Enid^(Tyre & Sidon) 15:21-22a
 - a. a Canaanite woman meets Him and cries out to Him in her anguish.
2. She is very respectful 15:22
 - a. She acknowledges His position and place in Israel as "*Lord*" and "*Son of David*"
 - b. She is a foreigner/Canaanite^{Eph. 2:12} seeking help from the King of the Jews^{outside jurisdiction}

3. She is in desperate need of help. 15:22
 - a. Daughter demon possessed...cruelly so. Heart wrenching for mom
4. Jesus is silent in her sorrow 15:23a
 - a. Jesus didn't immediately rescue her...He ignored her...deathly silent non-response
 - b. Does it ever seem like God is ignoring your prayers? John 11:5-6,21
5. God's silence in our sorrow is big test of faith.
 - a. Obstacle/hurdle /difficulty Psalm 13:1-2

PATIENCE

- The obstacle course gets harder for her 15:23-24
 - He finally answers...but only His disciples...in her hearing...very disappointing
 - The King of the Jews was sent first of all for the Jews. She was a Canaanite
- Jesus didn't send her away, but He did make her wait her turn and know her place.
 - Romans 1:16*Jew first, but also the Gentile* proper pecking order
 - Jesus was to be a "*light to the Gentiles*" ...but the Son was to dawn in Israel first
- Barriers to belief can help produce a greater belief.
 - She worshipped Him - 15:25 She bowed before Him who chooses
 - Not being first in line didn't deter her. She continued to pursue mercy from Him
 - Lam. 3:22-26

ACCEPTANCE

- Jesus finally answers her directly...but not very tenderly. 15:26
 - The trial during her turmoil only increased. Now He seemingly insults her.
 - Do you ever find some of God's words - hard/difficult/perplexing?
 - Do we accept His sayings that make us uncomfortable and aren't very palatable?
- She doesn't debate His words, she accepts His words.
 - 15:26a "*Yes, Lord...*"
 - She absorbed them...planted them...and they quickly grew into a great faith.
- Her faith found an opening in this confining obstacle.
 - *If I am a dog, then I am Your dog...and even dogs get crumbs from the Master table.*
 - Wow! What faith to squeeze through this tiny crevice.
 - *Give me just a crumb of Your mercy...I will take a crumb.*
 - Better a doorkeeper in the House.... Psalm 84:10 (better a dog inside than a prince outside)
 - Not worthy to be a son so please let be a servant... (Luke 15:19)
- Super-mom with super faith
 - 15:28
- Do you find it hard to accept the way Jesus ministered to this woman?
 - Remember, He went out of His way (15:21,29) Appointment to meet her need
- God has gone out of His way to meet our greatest need
 - He left heaven above to come to earth below
 - God does insult us - sinner/not good/in Satan's family/hell bound
 - Christ does have a chosen people (sometimes we wonder if we're included)
 - Remember that He has gone out of His way to meet us

DISTANCES

From Jerusalem to:

- Bethany - 2 miles E
- Bethlehem - 6 miles S
- Bethphage - 1 mile
- Caesarea - 57 miles NW
- Caesarea Philippi - 105 miles N
- Capernaum - 85 miles N
- Dead Sea - 6 miles ESE
- Jordan River - 21 miles E
- Mediterranean Sea - 37 miles W
- Salim - 50 miles
- Samaria - 36 miles N
- Sea of Galilee - 70 miles N

From Capernaum (north shore of Galilee) to:

- Bethsaida - 6 miles E
- Caesarea Philippi - 27 miles N
- Cana - 16 miles SW
- Dalmanutha - 6 miles
- Gennesaret - 3 miles
- Nain - 22 miles SSW
- Nazareth - 20 miles SW
- Tyre - 35 miles NW
- Sidon - 50 miles NNW
- Sychar - 55 miles S
- Info from website and Bible Dictionary

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Correlation to Oklahoma map (generally speaking)

- Going south to north
- Egypt = Texas/West Texas
- Bethlehem = Wynnewood
- Jerusalem = Paul's Valley
- Samaria = OKC area
- Nazareth = Edmond (does anything good come out of Edmond? ☹)
- Sea of Galilee = a really big Lake Arcadia that would stretch to Guthrie
- Capernaum = Guthrie
- Tyre/Sidon = Enid
- Jesus was born in Wynnewood and was a refugee to West Texas
- He grew up in Edmond, hung out at big Lake Arcadia and headquartered in Guthrie
- He would go to Paul's Valley on special occasions (Passover/Feasts) and when He did so He must needs go thru the OKC area (Samaria)
- Jesus spent most of His life/ministry going straight up and down 1-35 on an 85 mile route from Guthrie in the north to Paul's Valley in south.
- On one occasion He took a significant detour and went 40-50 miles out of His way to go northwest to Enid (Tyre/Sidon) in order to minister to the Canaanite woman.