

heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; 26 but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." 28 So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, 29 and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. 30 Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.

When does Jesus hear our requests?

When we are (12) _____, V. 28

What Action steps will you take to show your (13) _____ to God?

When we are (14) _____, V. 26, 28

What Action steps will you take to show your (15) _____ to God?

When we are (16) _____, V. 25

What Action steps will you take to show your (17) _____ for God?

When we have (18) _____.

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

What Action steps will you take to show your (19) _____ in God?

What are you asking Jesus to do in your life?

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Answers: 1-get away 2-pagan 3-disobedience 4-falls on her face 5-testing 6-Jesus 7-refuse 8-Samaritan
 9-receiving the Gospel 10-strong humble 11-grace 12-humble 13-humbleness 14-persistent 15-persistence
 16-reverent 17-reverence 18-faith 19-faith

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**Pastor Ryan Holt's sermonar
 Wednesday, October 21st, 2009
 Children's Bread Thrown to the Dogs:
 What Does it Mean?
 Message #12 in the series, "Your Miracle in
 the Mirror of Mark"**

Bible Text: Mark 7:24-30

Mark 7:24 From there He arose and went to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And He entered a house and wanted no one to know it, but He could not be hidden.

Jesus has been doing miracles all over the Israel countryside and now he is attempting to quietly (1) _____...perhaps to rest or to spend some time in prayer.

Not only did Jesus take a firm stand against the Jewish leaders' regard for their traditions, but He also left for non-Jewish territory, thus symbolically breaking down the barriers which kept the gospel from the Gentiles.
D. Edmond Hiebert The Gospel of Mark page 207

This trip marked the first time during His ministry that Jesus actually penetrated (2) _____ territory.

Ideally these Phoenician cities were part of the realm of Israel. When, under Joshua, the land was being partitioned out, the tribe of Asher was allocated the land "as far as Sidon the Great...and to the fortified city of Tyre" (Joshua 19:28, 29). They had never been able to subdue their territory and they had never entered into it. Again is it not symbolic? Where the might of arms was helpless, the conquering love of Jesus Christ was victorious. The earthly Israel had failed to gather in the people of Phoenicia; now the true Israel had come upon them. It was not a strange land into which Jesus came; it was a land which long ago God had given him for his own. He was not so much coming amongst strangers as entering into inheritance.

William Barclay The Gospel of Mark page 178

Jesus is in an area that long ago was supposed to have been God-honoring Israel territory, but because of (3) _____ it is still pagan territory when Jesus enters into it.

So we know where Jesus has traveled to, let's see what happens next.

Mark 7:25-26 For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet. 26 The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

It is hard to imagine a more inappropriate request from a traditional Jewish point of view. As a religious teacher, Jesus should not have any dealings with a woman, or with a Gentile, and the fact that her daughter is possessed by an “unclean spirit” compounds the problem. Other rabbis would have turned from her in horror.

Doubleday Bible Commentary page 94

The people of His native Nazareth had tried to throw Him off a cliff and this Gentile woman humbly (4) _____ before Him.

So how does the interaction go?

Mark 7:27 But Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

Jews often used the word “dogs” to refer to Gentiles. Even though it seems out of character for him to have done so, Jesus almost certainly used it in the same way. The obvious meaning is that Jews took precedence over Gentiles during the ministry of Jesus. Even Paul later adhered to a similar principle (Rom 1:16). The harshness is softened somewhat by the use of the diminutive form that could be translated “puppies” and could refer to house pets rather than the scavengers of the streets. James A. Brooks The New American Commentary of Mark page 121

No matter how you look at it, the term dog is an insult. How then, are we to explain Jesus’ use of it? He did not use the usual word; he used a diminutive word which described, not the wild dogs of the streets, but the little lap dogs of the house. In Greek, diminutives are characteristically affectionate. Jesus took the sting out of the word.

William Barclay The Gospel of Mark page 1789

It is clear that his tone of voice and the addition of the word “little” took this from a total rejection to a (5) _____ of her faith.

(6) _____ is always testing people’s faith.

Sometimes Jesus would make some difficult statements and people would turn their backs and (7) _____ to follow Him.

John 6:66-67 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. 67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

Now We see other bold statements about the Gentiles from Jesus in Matthew 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.

We see in Luke 10 that someone came to test Jesus about inheriting eternal life and Jesus uses the example of a (8) _____; a half Jew, half Gentile man that the Jews despise to show how to act in a “love your neighbor kind of way”.

Luke 10:33,36,37 33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 36 So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" 37 And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

It is clear that when we look at the whole of Scripture that Jesus was not opposed to a non-Jew (9) _____.

Romans 1:16 “to the Jew first and also to the Greek”.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

So how strong is this Gentile woman’s faith?

Mark 7:28-30 28 And she answered and said to Him, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs." 29 Then He said to her, "For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter." 30 And when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed.

She responded in a wonderful way. There was no ill-feeling on her part, as though he had insulted her or spoken to her in a discourteous manner. Humbly she answered Him, “Yes, Lord: yet the dogs [and she used a diminutive here, little dogs] under the table eat of the children’s crumbs.” It was as much to say, “Lord, I recognize the fact that I am just a poor, outcast Gentile, but give me some of the crumbs that the children of the kingdom are refusing; allow me to take the place of a puppy under the table and so obtain mercy at Thy hand.” Nothing appealed to our blessed Lord more than faith coupled with humility.

H.A. Ironside, Ironside Commentaries page 72, 73

This Syro-Phoenician Gentile woman had a (10) _____ faith in the Lord.

Matthew 15:28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Regardless of how stern the test was, the mother’s faith persisted in recognizing Jesus as Lord and in pointing out the custom of dogs eating what the children dropped. The humble woman did not bristle, but she said, in effect, “Just give my daughter a crumb of your healing power.” Jesus immediately pronounced the daughter healed because of the woman’s expression of faith. In faith the woman responded to Jesus’ command; she went home and found her daughter healed. This miracle was a rare instance of Jesus healing someone at a distance.

Layman’s Bible Book Commentary Vol 16. page 67

Jesus points out some previous occasions from the Old Testament where God showed his (11) _____ on Gentiles.

Luke 4:25–30 24 Then He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country. 25 But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the