

CHARITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
BIBLE STUDY ASSIGNMENT – WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023
MARK 7:24-30 AND MATTHEW 15:21-28
“A PERSISTENT MOTHER”

On **May 17, 2023**, we continue our series on great mothers in the Bible with a look at a **PERSISTENT MOTHER**.

1. Read **Mark 7:1-13** and **Matthew 15:1-20** and tell us which religious groups Jesus was arguing with when he decided to leave Galilee?

ANSWER: Mark 7:1 and Matthew 15:1 both say that these religious groups who had come to Galilee to confront Jesus were the Pharisees and scribes (teachers of religious law) who had been studying the law of God for so long that they made the law more important than the people. In fact, Jesus gave one of his strongest condemnations of these religious elites which can also be a strong rebuke of the so-called religious right and evangelicals of today in Mark 7:8-9 and Matthew 15:3-6. Jesus condemned as hypocrites who made their man-made traditions more important than the word of God.

2. The persistent mother in the scriptures we are studying was called a Gentile and Canaanite. Who were the Gentiles and who were the Canaanites?

ANSWER: Gentiles were any group of people who were NOT Jews. Canaanites were the descendants of Canaan, the son of Ham and the grandson of Noah. The Jews believed that the Canaanites were their enemies and that God had given the land of Canaan to the Jews. So the woman was identified in Matthew 15:22 in TNIV, and NKJV the mother is identified as a Canaanite woman and a woman of Canaan.

3. Where was Jesus when the Canaanite mother found him and asked for help?

ANSWER: Mark 7:24-25 says that Jesus got up and went to the region of Tyre and Sidon and entered a house and did not want anyone to know where he was. But the woman found Jesus in the house and came to him to plead with Jesus to save her daughter's life.

4. How did Jesus respond to the Canaanite mother at first and why do you think Jesus responded the way he did?

ANSWER: In Matthew 15:23 says Jesus did not answer the Canaanite mother at all at first. Jesus as a rabbi and Jewish leader probably did not want to publicly acknowledge this woman was both an enemy of Jews and was considered ceremonially unclean.

5. What did the Canaanite mother ask Jesus to do for her?

ANSWER: In Mark 7:26 it says that woman “kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter while Matthew 15:22 says the woman “cried out” to Jesus to “Have mercy on me,” and heal her daughter from demon-possession.

6. How did the Canaanite mother respond when Jesus refused to help her?

ANSWER: She kept on asking Jesus to heal her daughter. She was persistent!

7. What did Jesus say in **Matthew 15:24 & 26** and **Mark 7:27** as his reasons for not answering the Canaanite mother's plea?

ANSWER: Jesus told her he was sent only to heal and help the "lost sheep of the House of Israel." In both of these scriptures Jesus said he was not sent to help and heal the "dogs" but only the children of Israel.

8. What did Pastor Rivers teach us this past Sunday about the metaphor Jesus used about the dogs under the table?

ANSWER: Pastor taught in his sermon that the Greek word Jesus used to describe the dogs under the table was kunarion which means little dog and they were probably house dogs and not the larger dogs. In those days many families let their little dogs sit under tables while the families ate their meals.

9. What was the insightful response from the Canaanite mother to Jesus' refusal to help her daughter?

ANSWER: In Matthew 15:27 and Mark 7:28 the Canaanite mother and Syro-Phoenician woman said "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master's table." Her brilliant response said in essence since you have been giving the food of the Gospel to the children of Israel who don't want, it so stop wasting food on them and give the scraps to the people who want your word and will happy to eat the crumbs!

10. How did the persistence of the Canaanite mother save her daughter?

ANSWER: In Matthew 15:28 Jesus told the persistent mother that her faith was great and that her daughter was healed! And in Mark 7:29-30 Jesus told the mother to the demon was gone out of her daughter and when she got home to found her daughter healed, demon was gone and the daughter was on her bed healed.

Bonus Question:

11. What lessons did the Canaanite mother teach us that we can share with each other and our children?

ANSWER: The lesson from the Canaanite mother is to pray without ceasing and believe God can heal and transform situations! We must teach our children to never give up on God!