

# Crumbs for the Dogs

September 3, 2017 – Matthew 15:21-22; 26-28

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*“Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to Him, crying out, Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession. He (Jesus) replied, It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to their dogs. Yes, Lord she said, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table. Then Jesus answered, Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted. And her daughter was healed from that very hour.” (See also Mark 7:24-30)*

What is your favorite breed of dog?            How many different types of dogs can you think of?

Dogs are often referred to as: *“Man’s Best Friend.”* We might have a picture in our mind of the dog laying next to the chair of the owner, content, and alert and ready to play with the master, and ready to defend the master.

As much as we love our dogs, what person would want to be called a dog?            For a human being to be called a dog is considered an insult!!!            Yet in this text we hear Jesus is not being very politically correct.

But before we get to the point of Jesus referring to the woman as a dog, let us go back a bit in this account of the woman from the region of Tyre and Sidon. (Syrophonician Woman, Greek woman, Canaanite woman are all terms in reference to her.)

Jesus has just recently finished feeding the 5,000 +, He walked on the water, He was in the region of Gennesaret / Capernaum just west of the Sea of Galilee, He had a showdown with the Pharisees who came from Jerusalem and were challenging Him.

Following these events, Jesus wanted to withdraw to a region less populated. However as He goes to this region of Tyre and Sidon, (Mark 7:24-30 tells us Jesus entered a house) a Canaanite woman heard Jesus was in the area and she went to plead for HELP for her daughter who was possessed by a demon. By the Words this woman uses, it is evident that she knew Jesus was the Messiah or at least had been told this as she says. **Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me!** Unfortunately the initial response which the woman received was not what she hoped for.

**Vs. 23 – Jesus did not answer a word.**

And so the disciples urged Jesus to send the Woman Away. (Did the disciples really want to send her away empty handed, without helping her? The answer to this is not as clear as we would like.)

The amount of time that takes place during this incident is not told to us in Scripture. But regardless, the time comes when Jesus replied to her:

**Vs. 24 – I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.** (Jesus came first for the Jews, then for the Gentiles. Rom. 1:16)

But the woman did not stop there. She then knelt before the Lord and said,

**Vs. 25 – “LORD HELP ME!”**

It is now that Jesus equates the woman with a dog.

**Vs. 26 – He (Jesus) replied, It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to their dogs.**

If someone called you a dog, when you went to them for help, how would you respond?

If when those people in Texas asked the government for help, and the reply was, “You dogs!” How would people respond?

Amazingly the woman did not walk off in a fit of rage, instead she replied:

**Vs. 27 – Yes, Lord she said, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.**

This woman is so humble, and she knows to whom she is speaking, that she first agrees with Him. **YES LORD!**

She also demonstrates where she has placed Jesus in her life as she calls Him – “Master” in the English, but the Greek again says; LORD - Κυριων -.

This woman also recognizes the power that Jesus has as she asks for but a Crumb.

After the woman asks for but a Crumb from Jesus, we then see the power of that small crumb from the Table of Jesus, the Master and Lord.

**Vs. 28 – Then Jesus answered, Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted. And her daughter was healed from that very hour.**

We see this woman’s great PERSISTANCE in prayer to the Lord Jesus.

When we pray Jesus sometimes says NO, Sometimes He says WAIT, and sometimes He says YES, and it is all according to HIS Wisdom and HIS time for our salvation.

It is also important to note that the faith that this woman had, was also a gift of God. Faith is not our own doing, but Faith is God’s Work in us through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. (Ps. 51:5; Eph. 2:1-10; Rom. 7:18; Rom. 8:7)

The Scripture Readings for this Sunday focus on God’s Word / Salvation is for all people, both Jews and Gentiles.

This is extremely important to us, because we are NOT Jews, but we are Gentiles.

- Jesus also came for us and our Salvation.
- Jesus also died on the cross for our sin, the sin of the World.
- Jesus also is victorious over sin, death and the devil for us as Gentiles.
- And Jesus has won heaven for us.

Until that day comes when we are in heaven, as we go through whatever ailments or troubles that God allows into our lives, we like this woman from the area of Tyre and Sidon can go to Jesus again and again and we can say:

**Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me!**

**Vs. 25 -“LORD HELP ME!”** Lord – Master – all I need is but a small crumb of Your Mercy and Power! AMEN