

Lesson 23 Matthew 15.21-31 (23) Jesus teaches how to pray

The Syro-Phoenician woman-Barking at God

This lady had a demonised daughter. The (middle voice) verb "demonise" suggests either a demon possessing itself of her or the girl deliberately becoming involved with Satan. The Syro-Phoenician herself was screaming (Greek *κραυγω κραυγαζω* "to bay like a dog"). She was really vociferous. The content was excellent. "Have mercy, Lord, Son of David."
Jesus did not reply to her -not so much as one word.

Screeching at the disciples

The disciples then come to Jesus and say, "Send her away (Greek-*απολυω*) [a word used of the manner of despatch of the crowds on whom Jesus had compassion] because she is "shrieking like a raven" (Greek *κραζω*) after us. Jesus having given His reply said, "I am not sent but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" [There is here something not recorded by Matthew]

A direct prayerful appeal

The woman came and this time bowed in prayer before Him and said, "Lord help me". To this Jesus replied, "It is not good to take the bread of children and throw it to little puppies." "Yes indeed Lord-still the little puppies eat from the crumbs that fall from the table of their master. Jesus replied, "O woman, great is your faith; let it be done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that hour.

Healing on the mountain

From the extreme North West Jesus went south along the border with Decapolis and descending to lower ground skirted Galilee possibly climbing to the west either along the Mt of Beatitudes rise or to the lower slopes of Hattin. The first location seems best since Jesus rarely moved near to Tiberias. The crowds brought lame blind mute those bent with disease and many other quite different types of illness and dropped them in a bold venture at Jesus' feet. (Greek *ριπτω*) and he healed them with precious consultation care and assuaging of their concerns.

The crowd marvels

When they saw the mute talking gabbling even singing and the bent and twisted limbs healthy and the halt walking around and the looking around new-fangled with everything they glorified the God of Israel.



From Paper to Practice

Why did Jesus delay to answer the Syro-Phoenician?

If she barked at Him was He harsh or gracious to speak to her as to a "pet dog"?

When she came and prayed with the right attitude what was Jesus response?

There is one more evidence of Faith -than the words she used-what is it?