

“THE CONCERN OF A MOTHER”

Matt. 15:21-28

CWBC – 5/12/19

Jon Daniels

INTRO – Happy Mother’s Day! What an honor & privilege for us to be TOGETHER as FAMILY here today to worship the Lord Jesus!

Jab 1 – Anthem Lights video “Isn’t She Lovely?”

Jab 2 – Today is the day that we set aside to honor mothers, a national tradition that dates back to the early 1900’s. In fact, the International Mother’s Day Shrine is in a Methodist Church in Grafton, WV, where Mother’s Day was originally celebrated in 1908. We have a gift for all the ladies here today (ushers/deacons pass out pens).

Jab 3 – Today, we are going to look at a passage of Scripture that, I believe, will speak to all of the mothers who are here today, but also to everyone else, women & men alike. It’s a passage of Scripture that will challenge us to evaluate the level of our faith in the life-changing power of Jesus Christ. Someone has said, “Christian women cannot learn mothering from talk show hosts, magazine articles at the checkout stand, or classes

on self-esteem. A healthy, Godly view of mothering must be learned from the Scriptures.”

(Nancy Wilson)

EXPLANATION – So open your Bibles or your Bible app to Matthew 15:21-28 (page **821** in pew Bible).

Verse 21 gives us some insight into the circumstances in Jesus’ life at this point. Up until this time, He had been ministering & teaching mostly in Galilee. But now we see that He “went away from there.” He moved away from the region of Galilee b/c of the pressures that were rapidly mounting against Him. Don’t see this as a reaction of fear or worry. After all, who would God, the Son, be afraid of?

But on a practical level, there were some reasons for His move to the “district of Tyre & Sidon.”

First, He needed a time of rest & refreshment, as did His disciples. He was becoming more popular & more recognizable, & the crowds of people were growing all the time.

Secondly, He needed to move away from Herod Antipas who thought Jesus was John the Baptist come back from the dead. No doubt that if the

extremely jealous Herod could have gotten to Jesus, he most certainly would have tried to execute Him.

Finally, He needed some time away from the religious leaders that He had been openly rebuking. The Pharisees in Galilee has already made it clear that they trying to figure out how to destroy Him (Matt. 12:14). The danger from the Jewish religious leaders was escalating as Jesus continued to reveal the ungodliness of their man-made traditions. Pretty strong words He had for them in 15:7-9 – “You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said, ‘This people honors me w/ their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”

Side note: I never want those words to be said of me – that I honor the Lord w/ my lips, but my heart is far away from Him!

So, Jesus moved over into the region of Tyre & Sidon, a Gentile region where His Jewish opponents were very unlikely to go. And there, He encountered this Canaanite woman, this concerned mother.

APPLICATION – There are 4 questions that I want us to answer about this encounter. With each question, we will make a point of application.

QUESTION #1: Why did this mom come to Jesus? – v. 22

Mamas fight for their kids!

- Let a coach or a teacher mistreat their kids & see what happens!
 - o Unfairly fired from Fred’s Dollar Store when senior in high school. Walked into house in middle of day when Mama knew I was supposed to be at work. When I told her what happened, she said, “Get in the car.” Uh oh!

This mother had watched her child – a daughter – be mistreated & abused by demons & she was sick & tired of it. So she, a Gentile who was probably a worshiper of a pagan goddess Astarte, realized the futility of her religion, that her gods were dead, false gods, & came to the only One who could help her daughter. She was crying out, shouting, screaming for Jesus to do something for her daughter.

- She cried out for mercy – for Jesus to have pity on her & her daughter.

- She cried out to the Lord, the Son of David – even though she had a pagan background, she realized who Jesus truly was – the Messiah, the Lord Almighty.
- **She cried out for someone else – That’s called intercession – standing in for someone else when they can’t stand for themselves.**

You mamas have a great privilege & responsibility to cry out to Jesus on behalf of your kids!

QUESTION #2: Why did Jesus cut her off? – v. 23-24

Look at Jesus’ response to this desperate woman who was begging Him to free her daughter from the clutches of the demons who possessed her.

- **At first, He was silent – “But He did not answer her a word...”**
- Then His disciples, interpreting His silence to be rejection from Him, tried to get Him to send her away. May have been a little racial prejudice going on here, or, at least, a feeling of superiority from the disciples toward the woman.
- **Then Jesus’ statement about being sent only to the house of Israel, which was true, in that**

Israel was God’s chosen people & they had the first opportunity to accept Him as the true Savior & Messiah.

But why did He cut her off like He did? Why didn’t He immediately respond to her cries for help & heal her daughter? B/c it was a test of the sincerity of her faith. Jesus never said anything or did anything w/out a divine purpose. Even this somewhat strange encounter had a purpose – He had enough of superficial, shallow, pretend faith shown by those who just selfishly wanted something for themselves. He wasn’t being unloving or uncaring toward this mom. He was putting her faith to the test to bring it to its fullest expression.

There’s not a Christian mother in this room today who wouldn’t give testimony to times of testing they’ve experienced.

- **Times when you’ve cried out to the Lord & He was silent.**
- Times when you’ve prayed & the answer was a long time coming.
- **Times when others were pushing against you as you were seeking God’s answers in a situation.**

It's in those times that the Lord Jesus is working to take you deeper in your faith, stronger in your commitment, & braver in your walk w/ Him. Remember what James 1:3 says: "...the testing of your faith produces steadfastness [endurance, perseverance]."

QUESTION #3: Why did she continue? V- 25-27

This tenacious mom was undaunted in her desire to get help for her daughter. She was growing in her faith, growing in her persistence.

In v. 25, we see a response of humility as she knelt before Jesus & asked AGAIN for Him to help her. Jesus responded w/ another statement of the truth of who the Jews were – “children” - & who the Gentiles were – “dogs.” It was another statement to test the depth & sincerity of her faith.

Her reply in v. 27 was the reply that moved Jesus to action. In saying “even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table,” she was declaring in complete humility & dependence upon the mercy of Jesus that she believed that just the crumbs of the power of Jesus would be enough to meet her needs. She knew that just a

tiny crumb of the divine power of Jesus could heal her daughter, & that’s all she asked for.

THAT’S why she continued! She knew that she couldn’t give up & walk away b/c Jesus was her only hope!

- Do you realize that same thing for YOUR kids? Jesus is their only hope!

- Not their grades
 - Not their athletic abilities
 - Not their popularity
 - Not their physical appearance
- JESUS IS THEIR ONLY HOPE! Which leads to the last question.....

QUESTION #4: Why did Jesus cleanse her daughter? – v. 28

Because He knew that this mother had finally come to the God-giving realization that Jesus Christ is the only hope that her daughter had. That’s what we all need to realize, & that’s ESPECIALLY what we, as parents, need to be teaching & showing our kids – Jesus is the only hope!

John Wesley: "I learned more about Christianity from my mother than from all the theologians in England."