



- Jesus likely goes to Gentile territory for a break from the increasing pressure that He was facing in His earthly ministry.
- Vs. 24 seems to set the scene in such a way that Mark justifies the apparent harshness of Jesus' response to the woman.

I. A Desperate Need

- It is clear that she is in the middle of a major crisis – her daughter is demon possessed.
- As soon as she knows Jesus is in the area she immediately goes to Him.

I. A Desperate Need

- Here is a Gentile woman humbling herself at the feet of Jesus ... placing herself at His mercy.

II. A Curious Response

- Jesus seems to push her aside giving the impression that He wants nothing to do with her.
- Jesus' response is consistent with who He is and what He came to do.

II. A Curious Response

- Time and again Jesus makes it clear that His ministry, and the ministry of the disciples, is to be directed to the house of Israel.

III. Unshakeable Faith

- Jesus has left the door slightly open. Jesus says "Let the children be satisfied first".
- Jesus calls the woman a dog – it is not as degrading as it first seems for it is used to describe a lap or house dog. This dog sits under the table licking the crumbs that fall.

III. Unshakeable Faith

- If Jesus were to fulfill her request the blessing would not even be missed by those who were eating the bread at the table of the Lord.

III. Unshakeable Faith

- This Gentile woman really understands who Jesus is and how He works. He is a compassionate Messiah who will respond to those who come to Him in faith no matter what background they have.

III. Unshakeable Faith

- Like this woman, we also must act in faith. Faith which fully expects to see the compassion of Jesus poured out on us.
- Faith, which comes before the Lord in prayer fully anticipating a response from Him.

Jesus wants everyone to know; the disciples, the crowds, the readers of the Gospel who He is. He is the Lord who will show great compassion to all who come to Him in faith

I want you to invite at least one person to the table of the Lord. Some are already waiting. Invite them to church, offer to pray for them, share the love of Christ.