

JESUS ADMIRES A HUMBLE WOMAN'S FAITH

Mark 7:24-30

Key Verse: 7:29

1. Read verses 24-26. Where did Jesus and his disciples go? Where is this place? What kind of people lived there? Why might Jesus have retreated to this place? Why did he want to keep his presence a secret? Why could he not?
2. Among many who came, who was the one persistent woman? What was her problem? What was her attitude toward Jesus? What was her request?
3. Why might it be hard for her, as a mother, to come to Jesus with this problem? (Think about a mother's natural feeling for her daughter.) What compelled her to come?
4. What was her national background? (Think about the relationship between Jews and non-Jews.) What did she have to overcome in order to come to Jesus?
5. Read verse 27. How did Jesus first answer her? Who are the "children"? Who are "their dogs"? What does Jesus' statement tell us about his ministry and about God's way of working?
6. Why did Jesus, who usually spoke very kindly to women (Jn 4:14; Lk 7:11-17; Jn 11:25,26), say such a harsh thing to this poor woman?
7. Read verse 28. What was the woman's surprising response? What were the "crumbs" she was asking Jesus for? What can we learn from this woman about prayer?
8. What did she have to overcome in order to reply to Jesus in this way? What can we learn here about real humility?
9. Can you think of any other people of humble faith who received God's mercy? (2Ki 5:10-14; Ge 12:5; Lk 1:38) By contrast, who were some of the proud women of the Bible? (1Ki 19:1,2; 21:4-16; Mk 6:18-24)
10. Read verses 29-30. Why was Jesus pleased at her answer? How did he bless her? What can we learn here about the kind of faith that Jesus admires and blesses? (See also Jas 4:6; Isa 66:2b)