
**EVEN DOGS UNDER
THE TABLE EAT THE
CRUMBS OF
CHILDREN.**

**- THE
SYROPHOENICIAN
WOMAN**



INTRODUCTION

MARK 7:24-30

**Even Dogs under the
table eat the crumbs
of children.**

**- The
Syrophenician
Woman**



The remarkable story of the Syrophenician Woman unfolds in Mark Chapter 7:24-30, showcasing her fierce determination against the odds. As a woman of Greek descent, she was branded an outcast. She was a gentile during a time when salvation was deemed the exclusive privilege of the Jews. Yet, this courageous mother's love for her daughter, tormented by an unclean spirit, knew no bounds. The Message translation poignantly describes her child as disturbed. This description amplifies the mother's desperation. It highlights her relentless spirit as she fights for her daughter's freedom and healing.

Every mother knows the intense anxiety and overwhelming pressures that accompany the care of a sick child. This sheds light on the depth of this mother's anguish and her desperate condition. Her

INTRODUCTION

heart ached for her troubled child, yearning for a miraculous healing. She is unforgettable for her bold response to Jesus as she approached Him, imploring Him to heal her daughter. Instead of retreating in anger, she stood firm in her faith. She refused to wallow in despair at His words. Her focus was on the promise of hope that only Jesus could provide.

The bible says the Syrophoenician Woman heard of Jesus. She came before him and fell down at his feet. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. What have you heard or found out for yourself about the person of Jesus? I am not talking about what others have said about Jesus. I am talking about what you have discovered for yourself through a personal relationship with him. It was her conviction from what she heard of Jesus that propelled her to take action.

It is profoundly inspiring to witness how Jesus meets us in our most profound moments of need and struggle. Mark 7:24 reveals that he arose from where he was and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Jesus ventured into the very town where the Syrophoenician Woman resided. He stepped into a space where a Canaanite mother desperately sought healing for her tormented child. His presence ignited hope in her heart. It reminds us that no matter how vast our challenges, He is always there. He is ready to transform our anguish into light.

INTRODUCTION

In their first and only encounter, Jesus immediately lets her know. After she makes her request, he tells her it was not right to take what belonged to God's children and give it to the dogs. This response was enough to throw anyone off balance and bring out all kinds of negative emotions from within. Yet, this woman answered Jesus with full faced confidence. She said, – “Yes, Lord. Even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.”

She clearly knew she was unqualified to benefit from the salvation and healing powers of Christ as a gentile woman. Yet she persisted, remained humble at the feet of Jesus until she got her miracle.

How often do we give up when the answers we want don't come through?

How long will you sit at the feet of Jesus? How much do you want to hear him speak that life-changing word into your life?

How well have you mastered your emotions especially in moments of distress and uncertainty?

Jesus was moved by this woman's response. He said that because of her statement, she was free to go back home. The demon troubling her daughter had left her. Her daughter was free and healed.

The Syrophoenician Woman demonstrated profound humility in her

INTRODUCTION

words and actions before Jesus. She also revealed the extraordinary power of relentless faith through her compelling story. We may never know the identity of her daughter. We will forever cherish the image of a mother's fierce love for her suffering child. Her devotion was fierce and unwavering. We will remember her immense faith amidst uncertainty. We will also remember the courageous stand she took for her daughter's healing.

24 Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret.

25 In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet.

26 The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

27 “First let the children eat all they want,” he told her, “for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

28 “Lord,” she replied, “even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

29 Then he told her, “For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.”

30 She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

MATTHEW 15:21-28

21 Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”

23 Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”

24 He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”

25 The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said.

26 He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

27 “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

28 Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

UNWAVERING FAITH

This lady had great spiritual insight.

She was not asking the Lord to change His way of implementing the plan of God. This plan would later be carried out by the apostles to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Instead, she demonstrated a profound understanding of God's divine order and timing. Her faith was so remarkable that she recognized her place in the grand narrative of salvation. She was simply asking for a "crumb" that would fall from the table. This request illustrated her humility. It also showed her deep trust in God's mercy and provision. Faith is based upon understanding the will of God. It is founded upon knowledge — not mere emotion. True faith requires discernment and the ability to see beyond immediate circumstances. True faith means believing in the smallest token of God's grace. It means knowing that it is more than enough to provide for our deepest needs.

This mother illustrated the connection between faith and unfavorable circumstances.

Great faith will rely upon the Son of God. It recognizes that even in the most challenging times, there exists a profound strength. This strength can be derived from unwavering belief. Faith becomes stronger in times of distress for those who tenaciously depend on God (James 1:2-4). It is in these moments of trial that we often discover the depth of our spiritual resilience. We find the support of a higher power. These trials reveal how adversity can cultivate growth, patience, and a deeper understanding of divine purpose. By embracing these hardships, we learn to appreciate the transformative nature of faith. Faith acts as a guiding light amid darkness. It ultimately leads us toward hope and restoration.



This woman exemplified that profound faith passionately strives for the well-being of others.

Those who genuinely trust in God fervently intercede for those around them. They often engage in selfless acts of love and support. These acts uplift those in need. They recognize that true faith is not just a personal journey but a communal responsibility. We should be deeply concerned about the spiritual well-being of our beloved companions. We must realize that our encouragement, prayers, and actions can significantly impact their lives. As we navigate the challenges of life together, let us cultivate a spirit of camaraderie. We should nurture devotion. We should continually seek to enrich and nourish the souls of those we cherish.

The Syrophenician woman taught us that great faith endures.



She was steadfast in her request of the Lord. She was resilient and demonstrated a profound understanding of persistence in the face of adversity. Her unwavering spirit in seeking help for her daughter illustrates the power of a mother's love. It shows that true faith often requires us to push past barriers. We must confront those who might dismiss us. Reminiscent of the woman who pursued the unjust judge, she reminds us to always pray and never give up (Luke 18). Her story encourages us to approach our struggles with tenacity. We should hold onto hope, trusting that our prayers can change our circumstances. This is true even when the odds seem stacked against us. Through her actions, she embodies the belief that faith, when rooted in love and determination, can overcome any obstacle. Her story inspires others along their spiritual journeys.


The following questions are to evaluate where you are in your walk with the Lord. Before going through these questions I urge you to pray for the Lord to open your heart and reveal your walk with Him. These are no meant to be condemnation, but a tool to help you see where there are places for growth.

Questions to Evaluate Faith:

Personal Relationships and Beliefs:


- **Am I loving People?** *Is my faith demonstrated in how I treat others?*
- **Do I still believe in God?** *Is my faith a living reality for me?*
- **Am I actively seeking God's Guidance?** *Am I reading scripture, praying and seeking guidance from those with wisdom?*


- 
- **Am I trusting God's Sovereignty?** *Do I believe God is in control and that I can trust him with my life?*
 - **Do I take responsibility for my choices and their consequences?** *Am I living a life that reflects my faith?*
 - **Am I willing to give and accept second chances?** *DO I practice forgiveness and compassion, mirroring God's grace?*
 - **Do I have hope?** *Do I believe in a future filled with promise and purpose?*
- 

- 
- **What does my faith mean to me personally?**


- **What are my fears and doubts about my faith?** *What questions do I have about my faith and how do I deal with those doubts?*



Actions and Witness:


- **Am I living a life that reflects my faith?** *Do my words and actions align with my beliefs?*
 - **Am I sharing my faith with others?** *Am I comfortable talking about my faith and inviting others to explore it with me?*
- 

- 
- **How do I respond to conflict or challenges that test my faith?** *Do I maintain my faith in the face of adversity?*
 - **Am I actively seeking to understand and apply my faith in my daily life?** *Am I making an effort to live out my faith in my daily choices and actions?*
 - **How do I treat those who have different beliefs?**

Spiritual Growth:

- **Am I growing in my understanding and appreciation of my faith?** *Am I actively seeking to learn more about my faith and how to apply it to my life?*
- 

- 
- **Am I becoming like Christ?** *Am I striving to be more compassionate, forgiving, and loving as Jesus demonstrated?*
 - **Am I willing to understand my place in God's plan?** *Am I actively thinking about my purpose and how I can contribute to God's work in the world?*
 - **Am I willing to be challenged and change?** *Am I open to learning new things about my faith and to adjust my understanding as needed?*
- 



After answering these questions, what stands out to you the most? Where are areas you need to trust more and allow God to build up? What can you commit to prayer today with the Lord? What can you focus your study time on to better grow your relationship with the Lord?

Humility and Seeking a "Crumb" of God's Grace:

As she pleads, Jesus seems to shatter her hopes. He declares that He was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Yet this mother's fierce love and unyielding determination compel her to cry out, *"Lord, help me"* (Matt. 15:25). One might assume that such a heartfelt plea would stir compassion in Jesus' heart. However, He distances Himself instead. He utters, *"It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."* (Matt. 15:26).

In this powerful moment, Jesus compares her to a dog. Instead of succumbing to despair, this remarkable woman ignites with even greater fervor. She seizes His words of apparent discouragement and boldly responds, *"Yes it is, Lord"*. (Matt. 15:27).

Yes, Lord, I embrace this truth, and *"Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."* (Matt. 15:27). Her mother's heart is a wellspring of boundless love and profound self-denial. She stands tall against the insult, fueled by an unyielding spirit. She yearns desperately for just a single crumb of His miraculous healing power. She does this for the sake of her cherished child.

Jesus recognizes the depth of her unwavering faith and not only praises her but instantly heals her child! *"Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted."* (Matt. 15:28). How astonishing is His love! How profound is His compassion! Just envision the joyous heart of this mother as she rushes home! Though humbled, her child is miraculously healed. What invaluable lessons await us from this incredible story?

Jesus passionately yearns to work in humbled, empty hearts. The children of Israel stood on the brink of the magnificent land of Canaan. Moses, speaking for the Lord, cautioned them fervently. He warned them against the peril of forgetting their Creator. He implored them not to fall into the delusion. They should not believe that they had secured the land and its abundant blessings through their own might. If our hearts are overflowing with self, there remains

no space for the Lord to manifest His power. When our hearts are empty, they become the holy vessels to be filled with Christ's glory.

Although on the surface it seems like this mother is asking only for a crumb. In actuality, we have seen she was asking great things.

Humility


Read the following scriptures about humility. Pray the Lord reveals your heart to you. Then answer the following questions to self evaluate your own humility.

- James 4:6
- Psalm 25:9
- Daniel 10:12
- 2 Corinthians 12:9
- Philippians 2:3-8
- John 5:30
- Matthew 11:28-30
- Luke 22:42
- Mark 10:43-45
- James 3:16
- 2 Samuel 22:28
- Proverbs 11:2
- 1 John 2:16-17
- 1 Samuel 2:3
- Romans 12:3
- Romans 12:16
- 1 Peter 5:5-6
- Mark 9:35
- John 15:13
- Matthew 5:3


- Psalm 149:4
- Proverbs 22:4
- Luke 22:4
- Luke 14:11
- Isaiah 29:19
- Matthew 18:4
- Micah 6:8
- Isaiah 66:2
- Proverbs 29:23
- James 4:10



What does God's Word say humility is?



What does God's Word say the opposite of humility is?






The follow are question to ponder in evaluating our own humility. At the end of this survey, take time to pray with the Lord. Perhaps we need a better understanding of humility, or we need to surrender our pride. Tak time to respond in obedience with the Lord

- **How willing am I to recognize when I could use the help of others?**
 - **How willing am I to seek help once I recognize that I could use it?**
 - **How willing am I to admit weaknesses or faults?**
 - **Do I honestly seek greater awareness of my sinfulness from God?**
 - **When I see my faults do I beat myself up or humbly and thankfully accept who I am before God?**
- 

- 
- Do I get angry with my faults because I want to think of myself as more mature than I really am?
 - How much time do I spend worrying about my image or what others think of me? Why do I do this?
 - How does my humility compare to the Son's humility in coming to earth?
 - How much do I desire to share in Christ's sufferings and dishonor?
 - How much do I think of myself as a student, a messenger and a servant?
 - How often do I think of myself as needy before God?
- 

- 
- In conversations do I think more about my ideas or about what others are saying?
 - In pursuing spiritual maturity am I becoming self-absorbed and overly concerned about my perception of how mature I am?
 - How happy am I when others are praised for things that I want to excel in?
 - How often do I look for ways to honor others?
 - How does my personality type influence my pursuit of humility?
 - Do I long to find spiritual counselors who can help me mature?
- 

- 
- **Do I welcome criticisms of myself and suggestions for improvement?**
 - **When I am neglected, forgotten or rejected do I view this as an opportunity to learn more humility and faith?**
 - **When I fail, do I view this as an opportunity to learn more humility and faith?**
 - **Have I reached a point in my life where I am broken, so that I realize I can't depend on myself for living but must depend fully on God?**
 - **Do I spend a lot of time dwelling on the faults of others?**
 - **Do I get angry with the faults of others instead of humbly remembering who I am and showing mercy to others?**
- 

- 
- **Do I easily acknowledge that I need others in order to mature?**
 - **Do I generally consider others more important than myself?**
 - **Do I consider myself lacking in humility?**

Universal Love and Compassion

Some have passionately argued that the woman's identity encompasses being a woman, gentile, and foreigner. This combination plunges her into the depths of "triple marginalized" status. This is especially evident when contrasted with the two groups in chapter 7 of Mark's Gospel. In this gripping narrative, Jesus boldly confronts the opposition and misunderstanding from a pair of Jewish males. He engages in a fierce and fiery debate with the Pharisees. He passionately defends the importance of purity regulations (Mark 7:1-15). He also expresses profound frustration at his disciples. They show a bewildering inability to grasp his powerful teachings about food and good deeds (Mark 7:17-23). He declares with power, "there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile." He emphasizes that the things coming out are what defile.

This extraordinary woman fervently embodies a powerful statement. She stands boldly. Her actions are rooted in her identity as a Syrophoenician (Mark 7:26). Syria, the Roman province encompassing parts of present-day Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, and Israel, later united with Judea to become Syria-Palestina. The Phoenicians were an ancient Semitic people linked to the biblical Canaanites. They thrived in city-states across the Mediterranean. Tyre, a vibrant coastal city in modern-day Lebanon, just twelve miles north of the Israeli border, was one of their significant centers. Both geographically and ethnically, the Syrophoenician woman powerfully symbolizes the complex borders between Jews and gentiles. In verse 7:26, the term "Greek" underscores her identity as a non-Jew. It highlights her unique position in this rich tapestry of cultures and beliefs. The story also assumes that women and non-Jews were part of the cultural milieu of the earliest communities around Jesus.

Universal Love and Compassion

The Bible asserts a foundational equality among all humans, highlighting that all are created in God's image, equally valuable, and deserving of love and respect regardless of race, social status, or gender. Specific passages like Galatians 3:28 emphasize this equality in Christ, stating there are no distinctions between Jew, Gentile, slave, or free, male or female.

The equality of humanity relates to the following truths.

We are all beautifully and equally crafted in the divine image of God Himself (Genesis 1:26-28). In this profound truth, we find a compelling reminder: "The rich and poor have this in common: The Lord made them both" (Proverbs 22:2). Let us celebrate our shared humanity and the sacred honor bestowed upon us all!

All of humanity is born into sin, has sinned, and desperately falls short of the magnificent glory of God (Romans 3:23).

Every individual, regardless of their status, stands morally equal before the majestic throne of God, bound by the law and enveloped in His infinite mercy. We are all charged with the sacred duty to utilize our gifts and resources in a way that glorifies God. Each and every human being is a beloved creation of God, cherished as expressed in the profound truth of John 3:16.

Jesus is the ultimate atoning sacrifice, pouring out His love for the sins of the entire world, a profound truth beautifully captured in 1 John 2:2!

The Bible boldly proclaims that men and women are equal in the eyes of God, as each and every one is created in His glorious image (Genesis 1:27).

Men and women stand as equal partners in the divine gift of new life, as pro-

Universal Love and Compassion

claimed in 1 Peter 3:7! Let us affirm that women are not only equal but embody strength and wisdom in every aspect of life – mentally and spiritually powerful, they shine brightly alongside their male counterparts!

Since we are all magnificently created equal in the eyes of God, we are inherently bestowed with equal dignity as beloved children of our heavenly Father. Every single human being warrants our utmost respect and reverence. A rich man is neither more significant nor entitled to greater consideration than a poor man, and a Jew holds no greater claim to the kingdom of God than a Gentile. The profound essence of Romans 2:11 powerfully reminds us that God is a fair and just judge, and that each soul will inevitably confront the same judgment of the law and be graced with an opportunity to receive His boundless mercy. God shows no partiality (Deuteronomy 10:17).

The following are questions to ponder about our own perceptions of equality and God's Word on equality.

- **What does the concept of being “created in God’s image” mean for quality?**
How does this relate to all humanity, regardless of differences?

Universal Love and Compassion

- **How do passages like Galatians 3:28** ("There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus") **relate to modern discussions of equality?**
- **How does the principle of "justice" in the Bible, often linked to fairness and uprightness, relate to the concept of equality?**
- **What role does the concept of "equity" play in God's view on equality?** *How does it differ from simply striving for equal outcomes?*

Universal Love and Compassion

- **How do the stories of individuals in the Bible, such as the poor, marginalized, and oppressed, reflect God's concern for equality?**
- **How can Christians strive to live out the principle of equality in their relationships, communities, and the world?**
- **How do different interpretations of biblical texts relate to various viewpoints on equality?**

Universal Love and Compassion

- **How can individuals and communities work towards greater equality in their own lives and societies?**
- **How should Christians respond to social and political issues that raise questions about equality?**

God's Mercy and Grace

The willingness of Jesus to heal the woman's daughter was unwavering. Even amidst her initial hesitation, this willingness showcases God's limitless mercy and grace. These are generously extended to those who earnestly approach Him in faith. How often do we let doubts hold us back from bringing our struggles to the altar? Do we fear that our cries might go unheard? Yet, let this truth resonate within us: God is always listening. Each time we step forward to this altar, we are truly heard. Every moment we lift up the name of our God, His ears are attuned to us. When we open our hearts and minds to our Creator, He is aware of our deepest sorrows and aspirations. It's as if we must forge a profound connection. A meeting of the mind and heart ignites our faith. It fuels our spirit.

Are there things that you are holding back from God today? If so, ponder why and take them to the Lord today. Nothing is too small or too great for the Lord. As we ponder upon this story how does the actions of God's mercy and grace show up? Are you needing His grace and mercy today?

Conclusion

As we close our study, here are more questions to ponder over the passage we have read. I encourage you to read them again. Sit in a quiet place and let the Word of God speak to your heart. In light of this woman's story and interaction with Jesus, what is the Lord speaking about you and your walk with Him?

- What is the central message or key takeaway of this story?
- How does this story connect to the larger story of the Bible?
- What historical and cultural context is relevant to understanding this passage?
- How does this passage relate to other passages in the Bible?

Conclusion

- **Who wrote this passage and who was the intended audience?**
- **What is the purpose of this passage?**
- **Are there any specific commands, examples, or promises in this passage?**
- **Are there any sins to confess or avoid, or any truths to embrace and live by?**



itStartsSmall.com

© 2024 It Starts Small Ministries. This free printable scripture writing journal is intended for personal use and small group study. Please do not reproduce or modify without written permission. Visit www.itstartssmall.com for inquiries.

All graphics contained within this journal are used in accordance to the purchased commercial license requirements and is available upon request.