



Pastor Joshua Hughes :: April 7th, 2013

ICEBREAKER

Have you ever had someone completely miss the point of an important story? Share the funniest examples you can think of.

INTRODUCTION

In this passage, Jesus meets with a Canaanite woman and has a curious exchange. But behind the surprising language and actions of Jesus, there is a great lesson for us introduction faith. The Canaanite woman comes to Jesus with dependence, persistence and humility, and because of this Jesus pronounces her to be a woman of "great faith." There is much for us to learn about the way she approaches Jesus.

Read Matthew 15:21-28 and open with prayer.

SHE COMES WITH DEPENDENCE ON JESUS

The Canaanite woman is in a desperate situation, which makes her totally dependent on Jesus to help her. Her cry of "Lord, have mercy on me" in verse 22 demonstrates her posture of dependence.

Why is it important to acknowledge your dependence on Jesus?

SHE COMES PERSISTENTLY TO JESUS

The Canaanite woman is undeterred by Jesus silence, and she is undeterred by Jesus' strange words when he does respond.

What does it look like to respond in faith when God appears to be silent to our cries?

Have you ever been able to look back on a season where God did not answer your prayers to see how He was working? How does that empower you to persevere in faith in the midst of trials?

Pastor Josh said that he does not believe Jesus is being cruel by his silence or by his seemingly harsh response. Do you agree? Why or why not?

SHE COMES HUMBLY BEFORE JESUS

The humility of the Canaanite woman's response is remarkable. If you were in her situation, how would you have responded to Jesus' remark about throwing the children's bread to the dogs?

Read 2 Kings 5:1-14. Naaman is ready to walk away from healing and life because he is unwilling to humble himself. How can you be compelled by the examples of these two people in the Bible?

Why is it important to cultivate humility in your relationship with Jesus? Consider Isaiah 66:1-2.

Close with a season of prayer, lifting up one another's needs and asking Jesus to give you the sort of faith that he will commend.