

Title ideas:
The King hears you!

Matthew 15:21-28 - The King hears you!

Scriptures:

21 Then Jesus went out from there and

departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

Notes:

Tyre and Sidon are on the coast of modern-day Lebanon.

We are not told why Jesus went to Tyre and Sidon. This is Gentile territory. Most Jews would not follow Him to Tyre and Sidon. It is about 35 miles from Gennesaret. It is possible He was trying to get away from the multitudes, but that seems unlikely.

This is the only recorded time Jesus chose to leave Israel. As a child His parents took Him to Egypt.

Matthew's gospel is the most Jewish of four gospels, but it also reveals God's heart for the Gentiles. This is one of those accounts.

Scriptures:

James 1:2-4 - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

John 10:10b - I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

22 And behold, a woman of ^{FC} Canaan came

Notes:

'woman of Canaan' = a pagan Gentile woman. Canaan was the name of the Promised Land prior to God giving it to the Israelites. The Canaanites were the people God told the Israelites to drive completely out of the Promised Land.

from that region and cried out to ⁺ Him, saying,

From a Jewish perspective, there was every reason in the world to reject her. She was a pagan Gentile. She was a woman. Jewish men, especially the religious ones avoided contact with any woman who was not related to them. The fact that her daughter was demon-possessed would also raise suspicions that this woman was exceedingly wicked.

"Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My

O Lord, Son of David' is a very Jewish way of addressing Jesus. Some commentators suggest she was trying to fool Jesus into helping her. Jesus' response might point to that and to His knowing who she was.

G1653 - "to show mercy v. - to show leniency and compassion toward something or someone."

Human nature has a way of creating prejudices for everything in the world around us. When we think of those who can be saved, we might imagine that there are some people who are outside of God's willingness to save. To the Jews, and maybe to the disciples, this woman epitomized the dirty, unreachable wretches that God could never love.

^{FD} daughter is ^ψ severely demon-possessed."

G2560 - grievously, dangerously

G1139 -

Someone might choose to live in spiritual darkness and be spiritually filthy, and yet the gospel of God's grace can reach down and draw them into God's kingdom.

Good health is a blessing, but sickness is better if it draws drives us to God. Prosperity is a great mercy; but adversity is better if it draws us nearer to Christ. Good relationships with others are a great joy; but broken relationships are better if that is what it takes to get us to yield our will to the Holy Spirit.

Difficult circumstances can be used by God to force us to at least consider coming to God. Only God can take the horrible circumstances and experiences of life and make them into something beautiful and immortal. Only God can deliver us from every kind of evil or distress.

This woman is desperate. Her precious daughter is demon-possessed. It is impossible for us to imagine what that might like. It is not the same, but mental illness in a child might help us to relate.

God created us to walk in an intimate communion of fellowship with Him. If we do, we experience the life Jesus promised us (John 10:10b). God knows exactly what it will take to bring you to that life. And if something difficult is needed, He will bring it as an expression of His love and grace.

One of the most profound types of evidence of our faith is patient persevering during difficult things. In fact, James tells us that we should rejoice because of what those difficult things produce in us (James 1:2-4).

We live in a broken and fallen world. Things are not the way they should be. Illness, disease, trials, and tribulations vex our souls and make our lives less than ideal. They might even make life hard to bear.

If we are at all sensitive to the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives then we will benefit from the fruit He produces through trials, tribulations, testing, and temptations (Romans 8:28). Trials makes us think about God and seek to understand Him and His ways better. Trials can wean us from the world and its passions and temptations. Trials can send us to the Bible. Trials tend to drive us to our knees in prayer.

We must remind ourselves why this woman came to Jesus. She was desperate to have her daughter delivered from the demon. If her daughter was not demon-possessed, would she have come to Jesus? Not a chance. She would have gone on living her life and never had an encounter with God-in-the-flesh (Psalm 119:67, 71).

Scriptures:

23 But He answered her not a word. And His

Notes:

This is a very curious response from Jesus. Jesus appears to show her no compassion here.

Based on Jesus' response in verse 24, the disciples are asking Jesus to give her what she wants and then send her away.

disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send

G2065 -

They are not seeming to express and compassion for her. It is sad but true that many churches and Christians are not good witnesses for Christ. My own testimony is one of rejecting Christ because of what I saw in Christians. It wasn't until I looked past Christians and into the Word and saw the face of Christ that I was saved.

her away, for she cries out after us."

G2896 - shout.

If you are an unbeliever, don't judge Christ by Christians. All Christians and imperfect beings. Many of them are sincerely seeking to be like Christ. Some are just pretending to be Christians for some selfish reason. Jesus is wonderful, kind, gracious, generous, loving, and merciful. He will never let you down.

Scriptures:

24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent

Notes:

Jesus was the Jewish Messiah. He was a Jew and was sent to the Jewish people to declare to them the kingdom of Heaven as was promised to descendants of Abraham.

The Old Testament makes it clear that God always intended to save the Gentiles also, but it first would be through the Jews.

except to the lost sheep of the house of

G622 -

Israel."

Scriptures:

25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying,

G4352 -

Notes:

We see in this woman a lesson in perseverance in prayer. Even after it seemed that the Lord was ignoring her, she pressed on in prayer. Jesus' response to this prayer could have been interpreted as rejection, but she pressed on.

"Lord, help me!"

G997 -

Scriptures:

26 But He answered and said, "It is not good

G2570 – fitting.

Notes:

'dogs' was an ethnic slur Jews would use to describe Gentiles.

This was meant to challenge her faith. As a Gentile, she had no right to the Jewish Messiah. At least that is what the Jewish religious leaders would say.

to take the children's bread and throw *it*

to the little dogs."

G2952 -

Scriptures:

Matthew 7:7-8 - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

27 And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little

Notes:

This is a crucial aspect of faith. She understands that she doesn't deserve Jesus' help. She comes to Jesus in humility. She needs Jesus' help. She believes He can help her.

This woman is modeling what Jesus said in (Matthew 7:7-8). Ask and keep on asking...

dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their

masters' table.”

Scriptures:
Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O

woman, great *is* your faith! Let it be to you as
G3173 -

you desire." And her daughter was healed
G2309 - want.

from that very hour.

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Notes:
She had heard about Jesus and knew that He could do for her what she needed Him to do. She came to Him with her need and humbly pleaded with Him to heal her daughter. Even after Jesus ignored her and the disciples became frustrated with her, she persisted in her requests. And then once she confessed her unworthiness, Jesus gave her what she desired.

This Gentile woman teaches us three things about how we approach God.

First, we must believe Jesus can do for us what we desire ([Hebrews 11:6](#)).

Second, we must be persistent.

Third, we must boldly in humility ([Hebrews 4:16](#)). We come boldly, but we are approaching the throne of Almighty God. Nothing is us makes us worthy of that great privilege except faith in the finished work of Christ Jesus.