

FAITH

THE CURRENCY OF THE KINGDOM

PART 5 - GREAT FAITH

I am hoping that we are starting to come to terms with the significance and the magnitude to which spiritual faith is to dictate and define the very lives we are to be living on earth. To not be living by the kind of faith we have been looking at, is to not be living by faith.

Over the next 3 resources we are going to unpack 3 different realities when it comes to faith, but these 3 aspects are all interwoven into one dimension.

We will look at...

1. Great faith
2. Little or no faith
3. Increase our faith

Let's start with the promise of "great faith" and see what it was that made Jesus say to the Syrophenician woman that she had a faith that was great.

Matthew 15:21-28 Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon. And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed." But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, "Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us." But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" And He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." But she said, "Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus said to her, "**O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish.**" And her daughter was healed at once.

There are a number of significant challenges going on all at the same time for this woman. Firstly we see in the book of Mark (Mark 7:24-30) when looking at the same account, that Jesus didn't want anyone to know He was even in the city, never mind in the house he entered. We see Jesus not even answer the woman when she implores Him to have mercy on her due to her daughter being possessed by a demon.

We see the disciples just want rid of her and they implore Him to send her away, due to the incredible inconvenience she is being. She is speaking to men and Jewish men at that and this is completely unacceptable and against their cultural practices. In their eyes this woman is a dog, as even she acknowledges, and she is not worthy to even be in the house, never mind asking for anything.

It's what is spoken in verse 27 that changes the events of the story and sees Jesus engage with her in a

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way He had not previously.

But she said, “Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.”

The key words here are “their master’s table”, and it is these words that see Jesus turning to her to say, she is a woman of great faith and because of this He releases to her the thing which she asked of Him, the healing of her daughter.

This is profoundly deep and powerful. This nondescript dog, this Samaritan woman who is of no worth or value in the eyes of the Jews finds herself being granted, by the Lord Jesus, her request due to her faith, in fact her great faith. She enters into this situation with this great faith already being her reality and it is this great faith that is not prepared to let all the challenges she was facing get in her way.

All Jesus did was acknowledge what was already present in the woman and what He sanctioned was in accordance to what she already had - Great faith. This woman had a faith that was assured of what she hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. She knew who He was and she actually knew who she was, a child of Abraham, a child of the promises which are of the spirit and not the physical.

Romans 4:13-16 For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation. For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.

QUESTIONS

1. How do you think it would have felt to be one of Jesus’ disciples hearing what He said about this woman’s great faith?
2. How hard do you think it would have been to be this woman?
3. Why is faith in Christ no respecter of natural relationship, heritage, age, bloodline, culture, gender etc?
4. What is so significant about the words “their master's table” in relation to all this?
5. What are you going away with from this testimony of great faith to ponder and consider in relation to your own walk with Him?