**MIRACLES SERIES #15--Mark 7:24-30--"EVERY DOG IS GONNA HAVE HIS DAY!"**

**Intro: To call a person an old DOG is possibly the worst thing you could say about somebody! Yet, in the bible some people volunteered to call themselves such! (GOLIATH-"The LYING dog"-SAID THAT HE WAS A DOG--MEPHIBOSHETH- "The LAME dog"- SAID THAT HE WAS A DOG--THE SYROPHENICIAN WOMAN-"The LONGING dog"-JESUS CALLED HER A DOG!)** \*Somehow, this woman had exhausted every method in efforts to alleviate this problem with her child, but to no avail! She needed someone to turn things around in her daughter's life.-(THIS REQUEST WAS NOT FOR HERSELF, BUT FOR SOMEBODY ELSE!) In this selfish, self-centered world...the throne pays attention to SELFLESS PRAYERS! She didn’t need Him to lift every burden, just the heaviest; and not to move every mountain, just the highest; she didn't want God to give her the whole loaf, just a crumb.

 **Jesus has just told the Pharisees, the scribes, His disciples and the multitudes that nothing in and of itself is unclean, Mark 7:14-16. He told them that defilement is from within, Mark 7:20-23. His message was simple: *What a man is in his heart is what he truly is!* As soon as that encounter is over, Jesus and His men go to Tyre and Sidon, which is in the heart of Gentile territory. Once again, they try to get some rest from the pressures of the ministry. But, we are told in verse 24 that “*He could not be hid*”. That is always the case! And in this text, a burdened mother is able to locate Jesus. She begins to petition Him for the help she needs...and in doing so, she faces several challenges, but she persists and she gets what she came for. (THERE IS HOPE FOR ALL WHO PERSIST!)**

 **I. v. 25-26 THE MOTHER'S DESIRE**

A. **The Person that she Cared for** – This woman came to Jesus because she was concerned about her daughter. The child was demon possessed and was probably acting out in violence and anger. She needed help in a desperate way. It may be that the demon in causing bodily harm to the child. This was the situation in the case of another demon possessed child, **Matt. 9:22**

B. **The Pitifulness of her Crying** – **Matt. 15:23** tells us that she “***cried***” after Jesus. The word means to “***croak, to shout after another.***” It is the idea of a loud, persistent shrieking. Why was she so frantic? She was heartbroken over the condition of her child and she was determined to get her child the help she needed.

C. **The Providence she Committed to** – **Verse 25** tells us that this woman had “***heard of Him***”...about how He had driven the demons from other people. She may have heard about how Jesus had gone over into the country of the Gaderenes and had delivered the man possessed by a legion of demons-(HE HAS NO BOUNDERIES!). She may have said, “***If He can deliver that man from a legion of demons, surely He can deliver my daughter from the grip of one devil!***" She needed something that her own self-efforts, society & dead religion had not been able to provide. ***(1 Peter 5:7-"Casting all of your care upon him, for he careth for you"!)***

**II. v. 27-28 THE MOTHER'S DETERMINATION-They use to tell us kids in elementary school "If at first you don't succeed TRY TRY AGAIN!"** This woman comes to Jesus for help and when she doesn’t get the response she imagines, she stays after Jesus until she gets what she wants...(PEOPLE MUST NOT WANT THINGS BAD ENOUGH OR THEY WOULD PUT MORE INTO THINGS!)

A. v. 23-27 **The Obstacles Of Faith** – She had to overcome many obstacles in order to secure her daughter’s healing. It seemed that she met resistance to her request at every turn.

1. **The Obstacle Of Race** – **Verse 26** tells us that this woman was from Tyre and Sidon. **Matt. 15:22** tells us that she was a Canaanite, making her a descendant of a cursed people. When Joshua led the people of Israel into Canaan, they had been commanded to totally destroy the Canaanites, **Deut. 7:2**. She was a member of a doomed race because of their idolatry!

2. **The Obstacle Of Religion** – She came to Jesus and called out to Him and said, “***Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David***”. Here she was a Gentile mother crying out to the Jewish Messiah. She had no right to come to Jesus through the door of Judaism. She was a Gentile and according to **Matt 15:23**, Jesus gave her the response she deserved: “***He answered her not a word***.” (We were "Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, having no hope and without Christ in the world!")

3. **The Obstacle Of Racism** – When the disciples see and hear this Gentile calling out to their Messiah, they react by telling Jesus to send her away! They wanted nothing to do with her. (David said in the Psalms "NO MAN CARED FOR MY SOUL!")

4. **The Obstacle Of Rejection** – As Jesus speaks to this woman, His words appear harsh to our ears. Jesus tells her that she is a dog and does not deserve the children’s bread. The disciples rejected her and now it appears that Jesus is rejecting her too.

5. **The Obstacle Of Reality** – The realities of this situation are harsh! Her daughter was possessed by a devil. She was a member of a doomed race. These religion men did not seem to care about her or her situation at all. It must have appeared to her that her situation was hopeless. MAYBE THINGS SEEM THAT HOPELESS IN YOUR LIFE: Jesus won't ever turn you away, **John 6:37**. God’s silence is not an indication of God’s unwillingness to meet your need. God’s silences serve to temper our faith and to remind us that He operates on a different schedule that we do. **What obstacles are you facing today? Persist in seeking the Lord and in His time, you will see every barrier fall! *Your faith will not be defined by what you receive from God; but by what it takes to stop you from getting to God!* What’s stopping you?**

B. v. 27 **The Opportunities Of Faith** – As Jesus speaks with this woman, He never slams the door of hope in her face. Jesus says, “***Let the children first be filled…***” That word “***first***” was exactly what this broken hearted mother needed to hear! Jesus did not say, “***You cannot have what you are looking for!***” He said, “***I have come to the children of Israel. And, they must be filled first.***” She took that to mean that “***seconds***” were available. You see, these obstacles that were thrown up by the Lord were not placed there to discourage and defeat this lady. The obstacles were placed there to mature her faith. \***Matt. 15:26-27; Mark 7:27 – WHAT WOULD YOU THINK IF THE SON OF GOD CALLED YOU A "MANGY MUTT"??? She hears Jesus compare her to a dog! The Jews looked at all non-Jewish people as dogs. The word they used refers to a “*mangy, cur*”. It is used as a metaphor of people who are “*unclean, filthy and dirty.*” In fact, the Jews used this word to refer to sodomites and homosexuals. Jesus used that word in Matt. 7:6.** But the word used here is different. This Greek usage of the word "dog" means “***little puppies***”. It refers not to mangy, dirty dogs; but to a little puppy that is a beloved pet in a house. It refers to an animal that is looked on as a part of the family. The image here is of a beloved puppy sitting under the table while the family eats a meal. It sits there hoping and expecting that someone will slip it a morsel of food. The puppy can see the food. It can smell the food. It knows what it wants is within easy reach. It just needs someone to acknowledge it and give it a bite.

C. v. 28 **The Obligations Of Faith** – A lot of people would have given up! Jesus ignored her; the disciples played the race card; Jesus even compared her to a dog; yet she persisted. Most folks would have thrown up their hands in frustration and stormed off in anger saying, “***I don’t need this! So much for your God of love! My Daughter is dying!*** (**Note**: How much does your problem mean to you? Have you encountered some obstacles along the way that have made you throw up your hands and quit?)-TOO MUCH IS AT STKE TO QUIT!!! **Matthew 7:7-8**, “***Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.***”)

 **III. v. 29-30 THE MOTHER'S DELIVERED DAUGHTER**

A. **Jesus Responded To Her Faith** – He was amazed by the depth of her faith! In fact, this woman is only one of two people Jesus referred to as having “***great faith***”, **Matt. 15:28..**.and BOTH were gentiles!

B. **Jesus Rewarded Her Faith** – He rewarded her faith by giving her exactly what she asked for; He healed her daughter! Her faith was so strong that she didn’t ask for proof, but she took Jesus at His word and went home!