



**When God Offends
You!
Matthew 15:21-28**

Observations

- **Christians tend to spend a lot of time living a life of righteousness, but ultimately someone will be offended by the way you live**
- **Since the Pandemic for example, our adapted methods of greeting one another have become offensive to some people (some use it as a measuring stick to judge the level of friendship)**
- **You can't spend your life wondering if every person you meet is offended by how you have chosen to live**
- **When God offends us (self), we have two choices: 1) reject God's message, or 2) accept the truth inherent in the message and respond in faith**



Matthew 15:21-26, “Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 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.” 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.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.” The woman came and knelt before Him, “Lord, help me!” she said. He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

- **How did Jesus respond initially? He did not answer her. vs23**
- **His disciples thought that they read Jesus, and seeing her as a nuisance, urged Him to tell her to leave (dismissive)**
- **That’s how Jesus seems to a lot of people when He is silent (“I prayed to Jesus,” “I begged,” “I came to one of His churches, and nothing happened,” “I was baptized”), (“I didn’t feel welcomed”, “I was offended and so I left”).
Too many “I’s”**

Observations

- But in this story, I've got to keep in mind whose speaking. (the mother), and who is answering the questions (God)
- I'm a sinner and don't deserve any mercy from Him or any answers at all; Romans 6:23
- I don't have a right to approach God with an attitude, *as if He OWES me something, or*, believe I was impressive because of how nice I was in asking a favor
- I am NOT HIS GOD, HE IS MY GOD!
- I haven't earned a spot at His table! (saved by grace, Eph.2:8)
- I'm the beggar here! He has a right to ignore me if He wants!
- God by His Very Nature is OFFENSIVE to human wisdom and pride (*For my thoughts are not your thoughts.., Isaiah 55:8-9*)

Observations

When God Offends You There Are Two Choices

- 1) Reject God's message and face the consequences, John 12:48
- 2) Accept the truth inherent in the message and respond in faith, John 8:31-32

Notice His First Answer to Her

Nothing! *"Jesus did not answer a word."* Verse 23

- Jesus' silence can be DEAFENING and OFFENSIVE (When he looked at Peter, in silence, after his denial and broke his heart, Luke 22:61; Jesus in Matthew 27:14, while standing before Pilate, amazed the Governor with silence, answering not a single charge against Him)
- In His silence Jesus searches our hearts and tests our faith
- Are we constant with our cries for help or do we give up on our agony after a couple of seemingly unanswered petitions?

Observations

- Jesus teaches a parable at the beginning of Luke 18, and tells His audience what He wants them learn before He starts it:
“Then Jesus told His parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up (lose heart).”
- He then tells of an unrighteous judge who had no respect for God or man who was nuisanced by a victim who kept coming to his court for protection and justice from her adversary
- The Judge finally says in the parable, that even though he had no respect for God’s laws or man’s laws: Just because she was always in his court everyday, he would grant her request
- In verse 7 Jesus then says, if an unjust Judge chooses in favor of this woman, simply because he is “sick of her,” don’t you think that The Righteous Judge will defend and protect His chosen ones who cry to Him day and night! (God triages us)

Matthew 15:24

The First Thing Jesus Says is to His Disciples:

“I was sent to the lost sheep of Israel.”

- **Verse 25 says, *“But she came and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, help me!”***
- **Mere words don’t capture the emotional picture of this mother pleading to Jesus on behalf of her sick child (mothers know about taking a child to the doctor when you can do no more)**
- **She understood from Jesus that her race wasn’t “the first in line” for Him, and that He had a responsibility to His Messianic lineage**



Observation

- But her point to the Jesus was: Since you were sent to Israel, would Israel allow you, **ONE GRACIOUS ACT** to one of another race and especially if that one was prostrate, kneeling to Him, and worshipping Him at that very moment?
- Didn't Jesus' dismissive disciples understand that?
- *"I'm letting you Israelites know that I am desperate. I am not asking you all to help all of us, I'm asking you to help me."*
- Her point to the disciples and to Jesus was: *"please don't condemn me based on my annoying posture or my inherited racial affiliation. I am a Canaanite Woman looking for a blessing!"* *"I'm not asking you for a March on Washington!"*
- *"I've got a sick child and God made us who we are."* (Jesus understood that piece of the argument) Acts 17:26

But Now Jesus Tests Her Faith In Him!

Matthew 15:26

He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

- **Wow! Jesus appears to use one of the colloquial expressions of the Jews of that day on the mother and her child (I am sure that this didn't hurt the prejudiced apostles) It was OFFENSIVE, but her reply was the, "EARTHQUAKE"; verse 27:**
"Yes it is Lord (or true dat)," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."
- *"Lord, in your analogy, if that master has dogs, he gives them the crumbs that fall from his table doesn't he!"*

She Was Saying Lord if I am a Dog:

I Am Your Dog!

- “You are God and I worship you!”, “I kneel before you!”, “I know who you are in my life!” “I plead for your guidance and direction!”
- “I wasn’t born a Jew (chosen), but I made the choice for you!”

Lord, It’s Your Table (The Master’s)

- In effect, she “bypasses” the prejudiced disciples to have her own relationship with Jesus (*It’s your table and I am under your authority*)
- “I don’t need another race to qualify me to receive a blessing from you!” *In Acts 10:34, Peter received that same lesson*

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

How Was Her “Great Faith” Exemplified?

- She exhibited a confidence and trust in Jesus as her Savior
“Now faith is the substance (confidence) of things hoped for, the evidence (assurance) of things not seen.” Heb. 11:1
- She showed humility and perseverance in pressing her request (she didn’t have Jesus on her timetable, criticizing a seeming lack of urgency) She already knew what He could do!

She addressed Jesus as Lord, kneeling before Him (publicly showing reverence to Him before his disciples)

She believed her child would be alright if Jesus said so, not insisting on a “house call.” *“The words that I speak unto you...”*

- **Great Faith keeps on crying out again and again.. EVEN NOW!**

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38

