



## GETTING YOUR PIECE OF THE BREAD By: David W. Lankford

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Today we want to take our scripture text from **Mark 7:24-30**, "And from thence he arose and went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into an house, and would have no man to know it, but he could not be hid, For a certain woman, whose daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him and came and fell at his feet: The woman was a Greek, Syrophenicain by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter. But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs. And she answered and said unto him, Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs. And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter. And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed".

Needless to say, we're living in a very selfish and self-serving generation. However, we serve a living God who is able to spread a banquet table in the wilderness before the redeemed in spite of the enemy and his onslaughts. This woman, the Bible says was a Greek, implying that she was a Gentile and Syrophenician by nation. It was common knowledge that the Jews had very little to do with the Gentiles and often saw them as mere dogs. I want to emphasize verse 25 of our scripture text that this was a certain woman. I believe the reason the word certain in most bibles is italicized because it authenticates this certain, or particular woman had faith in God, and for that reason Jesus Christ crossed the borders into Tyre and Sidon. We never know, as believers, when we are

going to have an encounter with God by him crossing a particular border to get to his beloved. We know that Jesus, according to the scriptures, needed to go through Samaria to meet the woman at the well in John chapter 4: thus, he also crossed a border to meet this Gentile Syrophenician woman. This woman, who had great faith in Jesus, was constrained and driven by her faith to seek out this man called the Bread of Life, who the scriptures declared, could not be hid. This certain woman found herself in a desperate situation because her daughter was demon possessed. Often times when we find ourselves in a desperate situation we take desperate measures. I find it profoundly amazing that we have no record of her exact words other than: she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter. What we are about to witness is one of the greatest displays of faith that has ever been written in the Holy Scriptures. I want you to notice how this woman came to Jesus, the Lord's Christ. The first thing that she did when she came to Christ was she fell at his feet. Having fallen at his feet was a tremendous display of humility. Anytime anyone approaches the throne of God in Jesus name, one must approach the Father in the correct manner, which is the one of humility. We read in **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6-7**, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." This is exactly how this woman approached Christ when she humbled herself and cast her greatest care upon the Lord. We must understand, God will not embrace those who are proud

and arrogant. We read in **James 4:6**, "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble". Certainly when one approaches the throne of God we do not want him to resist us but rather embrace us. Not only was there a public display of humility outwardly, but I believe she was even humble within her mind. Paul the apostle declared in **Acts 20:19**, "Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears and temptations". And the psalmist David declared in **Psalms 9:12**, "He forgetteth not the cry of the humble". If you want God Almighty to hear, you must be humble. This woman prostrated herself at the most powerful place possible in relation to Jesus Christ, and that was at His most holy feet. Her faith literally exploded as she entered and humbled herself in His divine presence. No wonder the psalmist declared in **Psalms 16:11**, "Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy". You see, in the presence of God your faith will explode, and when your faith explodes you can believe God for anything. Jesus declared in **Mark 11:24**, "Therefore I say unto you. What things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, **believe** that you receive them, and ye shall have them". We read in **Hebrews 11:1**, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen". Her faith was her evidence that Christ was who He said He was. Jesus tells us in **Matthew 7:7**, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened". This particular passage found here in Matthew

Chapter 7, was fulfilled in this Gentile mother's life. Jesus also told us in **John 15:7**, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you". Jesus also gave us a precious word in **John 14:13-14**, "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it". Even though she was in the very presence of Christ, Christ challenged her faith. For He said: let the children first be filled, which speaks of the nation of Israel to whom He came. He then said unto her: it is not meet to take the children's bread and then cast it unto the dogs. In all reality He insulted her by describing her as a dog. What we witnessed was that she was not moved. Her faith did not allow her to be moved by His desparaging words. Her faith was so great that her faith allowed her to be in agreement with Christ coupled with His statement. However, her faith, having pleased God, demanded that He hear her humble cry and meet her every need. Her faith was so profound that her answer even amazed the Lord Jesus Christ. Her agreement with Christ statement, coupled with her faith, was absolutely profound. She agreed with Christ by saying: yes Lord, but the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs. As a child of God, if it means coming under the table of our Lord Jesus Christ to receive our miracles, let us get under the table and receive our piece of bread. This woman's faith allowed her to receive more than a crumb or a small morsel of bread but rather a freshly baked loaf of bread. The psalmist declared in **Psalm 37:25**, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread". Let us not be like Israel while in the wilderness when

they questioned God and His ability according to **Psalm 78:19**, "Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?" Not only did the Lord God of Abraham furnish a table in the wilderness, but man did eat Angel's food, and He gave them meat to eat. In all reality the Syrophenician woman did eat more than Angel's food because she got a divine miracle from our Lord Jesus Christ. How determined are you to receive a miracle from the Lord Jesus Christ? This woman would not allow or suffer anything to deter her from receiving of our Lord. She was engulfed with great faith and her faith was rewarded. Jesus recognized her faith when she said, "yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's bread". For this profound saying from this Gentile woman Jesus said, "the devil is gone out of thy daughter". The prophetic word that the psalmist declared in the book of Psalms came to fruition in this Gentile woman's life. We read in **Psalm 107:20**, "He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions". The bible says that when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed. All God has to do is send His most holy Word and miracles begin to happen. It is time, as children of the most high God that we stand up in the face of the devil and declare that we will not only get the crumbs that fall from His table but a freshly baked loaf of bread from the throne of Almighty God. We need to start believing God for great things, bigger things, and even mightier things in our lives as we draw nearer the end of the age. What it is that we fail to understand and realize we serve a mighty God, a most holy God who is able to do anything if we can only believe. Jesus declared in **Matthew 19:26**, "With men this is

impossible; but with God all things are possible". When the angel Gabriel was conveying his message to Mary that she would conceive of the Holy Ghost she said, how shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And Gabriel answered; for with God nothing shall be impossible! Truly, nothing is impossible with God if we can believe Him. I want you to go home with a miracle today and the Lord Jesus Christ wants you to go home with a miracle as well. He truly is a miracle working God. In closing, let me say, we are always humbled by your love and support for the Voice of Evangelism ministries. We want to be faithful and edifying the body of the Lord Jesus Christ in preaching an uncompromising word from the Holy Scriptures. This nation is entering into a time of profuse uncertainty. May each passing day you be found in the secret place of the most high God and living in His divine presence. Until next month, keep your lamps trimmed and burning ever so brightly, because we are going to need the light of Christ to navigate through the world in this hour of uncertainty. He is the only true light and without Him men will continue to live in darkness. Because of His great light whom or what shall the people of God fear? **Psalm 27:1-3**, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, kin this will I be confident."

Serving With You All,

Pastor David W. Lankford