



MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY
MATTHEW 15:21-28

TODAYS VERSES:

- Matthew 15:21-28
- Mark 7:24-30
- Colossians 1:17

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Matthew 15:21-28 (and its parallel in Mark 7:24-30) challenges us to see ourselves in the story, to approach Jesus with our lives and trust that He is good and strong and will bring us through even desperate situations.

The passage begins with Jesus and the disciples seeking time away likely for rest and renewal. And a desperate mother finds them seeking the same - help, rest, and renewal for herself and her daughter.

In what areas of your life do you need a break? A break from worry or effort or monotony in your family, work, relationships, health or finances? What would that 'break' look like? What would relief or freedom from that burden look like for you?

The narrative continues with Jesus seemingly ignoring the woman, telling her she has no place to ask Him for anything, and even comparing her to a dirty 'dog.' Similarly, at times we may feel like God has ignored us, or pushed us away... but He is likely doing something else with the story. God is still good even when we don't yet understand how He's working.

Have you ever experienced what seemed to be God ignoring or pushing you away? What was the circumstance? How did God resolve the situation? How might the situation speak to God's goodness (if it can)?

The disciples seem caught up with their own needs and their social biases. They'd rather not be annoyed when it's their turn to get some rest. Jesus uses this interaction as a heart check of the entitlement and pride of his disciples.

Where in your life might you judge others as less important, less deserving of your time and care? How does Jesus view those situations and people? How might God want you to adjust your heart, mind, and actions to better reflect His goodness toward these people?

Jesus celebrates this woman's honest and strong faith - that receiving an undeserved 'crumb from the master's table' would be more than sufficient for her and her daughter. This is the truth of the Gospel! None of us deserve a scrap from the dinner table of a Holy God. We cannot earn His favor with good works or religious practices. Out of His goodness God freely gives us salvation, mercy, grace - even Himself - as we come to Him and trust Him.

Where in your life is God calling you to trust in the goodness and truth of the Gospel this week? Where can you lean in and rest in Him and His sufficiency for and compassion toward you?

What burdens are you bringing to Jesus this week? With whom might you share those burdens so they might pray with and for you this week?
