

Back to Basics – Faith Toward God
Mt. 15:21-28

Thesis: To help us better understand exactly what faith is so that we can have great faith.

Introduction:

Many in this world say that we are saved by faith only. But is this really what the Bible teaches?

I. This Gentile woman came to the right person for help (15:21-22).

A. Undoubtedly, she had heard of some of the things that Jesus had done (or else, why would she have gone to Him).

1. She knew of some of the miracles that Jesus had previously done.
 - a. She may have heard of Jesus healing a leper (Mt. 8:1-4).
 - b. She may have heard of the great multitudes that Jesus had healed (Mt. 8:16-17).
 - c. She may have heard of the paralyzed man that Jesus healed and forgave (Mt. 9:1-8).
 - d. She may have also heard about Jesus healing the 5,000 (Mt. 14).
 - e. Although we are not told of exactly what she knew about Jesus, we know that she knew that He could do miracles, or else she would not have gone to Him.
2. She also would have known of some of His teachings.
 - a. The reason Jesus did these miracles was to prove that He is the Son of God (Jn. 20:30-31).
 - b. It stands to reason that she knew some of the great lessons that Jesus taught as he performed these miracles.

B. She knew that it was only Jesus who could help her.

1. Because she heard and knew of these things, she knew that it was only Jesus that could help her.
 - a) There was no one else in the land that could save her daughter.
 - b) It was only the Christ who had the power to heal her.
2. She comes to Him with the utmost respect for Him.
 - a. She calls Him the “Son of David” (15:22).
 - 1) David was the greatest king of Israel, and to be called his son was a great compliment.
 - 2) Calling Jesus the “Son of David” is also in indication that she believed that He was the Christ, because the Christ had to be of the lineage of David.
 - b. Also, she was begging for mercy from Him.
 - 1) She did say that Jesus owed this to her and her daughter.
 - 2) She came begging Him to have mercy on her daughter.

II. She was very persistent in her faith (15:23-27).

A. Initially, Jesus refused to answer her (15:23).

1. However, the disciples of Christ urged Jesus to send her away.
 - a. Jesus makes it clear to His disciples (and by context we know that the woman heard Him as well) that He was not there to heal a Gentile (15:24).
 - b. We can only imagine the dejection that she would feel, hearing that Jesus would not heal her daughter.
2. Perhaps this was a test of her faith (to see how persistent she would be).

B. Even though Jesus did not respond immediately, the Gentile woman continued to plead for His help.

1. Notice her response to Jesus (15:25-27).
 - a. Even though Jesus has said no, she comes and worships Him (15:25).
 - b. After Jesus again says no, she continues to beg Him for help (15:27).
2. Jesus said no to this woman at least twice; yet she continued to persuade Him for help.
3. She persevered in her desire to have Jesus heal her daughter.
 - a. Jesus tells two parables that teach of being persistent in our request of God (or in this case, Christ).
 - 1) **Lk. 11:5-8** - And He said to them, “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; {6} for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; {7} and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you’? {8} I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.”
 - 2) **Lk. 18:1-6** - Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, {2} saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. {3} Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ {4} And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, {5} yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’” {6} Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said.”
 - b. We must learn to be persistent and endure in our faith.
 - 1) Sometimes enduring means not just surviving, but being persistent with our needs.

- 2) We need to be strong in our faith and continually seek the counsel of God.

III. Jesus says that it was her faith that healed her daughter (15:28).

A. Notice the characteristics of her faith.

1. She knew of the great things that Jesus had done because she came to Him.
2. She knew that it was only Jesus that could help her.
3. She was active in her faith.
 - a. Had she not come to Jesus, her daughter would not have been healed.
 - b. Also, had she not persevered, her daughter would not have been healed.

B. Our faith must be like the faith of this Gentile woman.

1. If we are going to receive spiritual help, we must be willing to go to Jesus, “the author and finisher of our faith” (Heb. 12:2).
2. Our faith must be active.
 - a. We have to go to Jesus; we cannot sit back and do nothing.
 - b. **Js. 2:26** - For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.
3. Also, we have to obey.
 - a. On this occasion, Jesus did not tell the woman to do anything above what she had already done.
 - b. However, today we have to be obedient to Christ.
 - c. **Rom. 1:5; 16:26** – Paul tells us to be obedient to the faith.
4. We also have to be persistent in our faith; so that when things do not go exactly right, we can endure in our faith.
 - a. Some people try to do what is right, but quickly give up when things go bad.
 - b. We must be persistent, just like this woman.

Conclusion:

Do you have the type of faith that this Gentile woman had?