



Week of December 4th, 2016

Key Scripture:

Matthew 15:21–28 (ESV)

The Faith of a Canaanite Woman

²¹And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” ²⁴He answered, “**I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶And he answered, “**It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.**” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “**O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.**” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Revelation 19:9–10 (ESV)

⁹And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” ¹⁰Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Discussion Questions:

JD opened on Sunday saying: *“Everything about culture is telling me is that this life is about me and my moment. Looking at our surroundings I can easily think that this world is primarily meant to bless me.”* **How much do you agree with this statement? How this thinking affect our walk with God?**

JD said that our biggest sins come when we start feeling sorry for ourselves and think we deserve things that we don’t. And also where we can’t wait or feel offended by God’s silence. **Discuss how Matthew 15:21-28 shows us how to deal with the silence & felt offence from God. How have you seen those two things alienate people?**

“If us getting things our own way is the reason that we worship - then us getting our way has become higher and more precious than the one who is worthy to be praised.” – JD. **What hardest things to handover into God’s hands?**

Why did Jesus deny the Canaanite woman, then accept her request later? What does this show about the character that God is looking for in his people?

JD said: *“Tenacity with God is both rare and comes with great reward”.* **Where do you feel most tenacious with God? Is it a good thing?**

JD pointed out that the Canaanite woman had every cultural reason not to come to Jesus with her request – yet she persisted. **What were those things? What do you find pulling you away from seeking God?**

John in after receiving Revelation fell down and worshiped the angel in Rev 19:9-10. **Why is the angel’s response to John so important for us today?**

God’s people, throughout the Bible and today, have a history of easily worshipping the wrong things. And, even though we all wished to be used mightily by God. **How can we keep our focus on Jesus and not on the puffing up of ourselves or Christian culture?**