

Great Faith

Scripture

"Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw [it] to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great [is] your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour." (Matthew 15:21-28 NKJV)

Commentary

Here is an amazing act of faith. A pagan woman, a Canaanite comes to Jesus, a Jew, to ask for help. The Canaanites were Gentiles and not welcomed by the Jews. At one time they were enemies of the Jews, and so her reaching out to Jesus was an extreme act of faith. Even in the face of what could be considered an insult by any other person, this woman humbled herself and identifies with the dogs that eat bread from under their master's table.

Here is the essence of true faith, humility. Many come making professions of faith because they have some calamity in their lives. Life has steamrolled them and because they see no solution they turn to God to fix their situation. This could even be said of the Canaanite women, but with one huge exception, her humility. She needed help for an unsolvable problem and she was willing to submit to Christ. She was willing to be a dog at His feet.

This is the place where true conversions happen. Those who will be saved must see Christ for who He is and themselves for who they are. Jesus made this issue of humility clear when he taught the disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." (Mark 10:15 NKJV) This He said in response to the disciples' rebuke of the little children, as if they were less important.

Think about your faith. Are you truly humble? Have you really submitted to the rule of Christ in your life? Make sure your agenda is Christ's agenda.