

Community Group Question Guide

Matthew 15:21-28

21 *And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.*

22 *And 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."*

23 *But 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."*

24 *He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*

25 *But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."*

26 *And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."*

27 *She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."*

28 *Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.*

ESV

- What parts of this story might be odd or uncomfortable for a 1st Century Jew? Why?
- What do you make of Jesus not answering the Canaanite woman?
- What do you think about the disciples' request of Jesus?
- Does Jesus respond to the disciples' plea? How or not?
- How does the woman approach Jesus?
- What do you think of Jesus' response?
- What are the lost sheep of Israel?
- What makes the Canaanite woman's faith "great?"
- How does this text change your thinking and understanding?