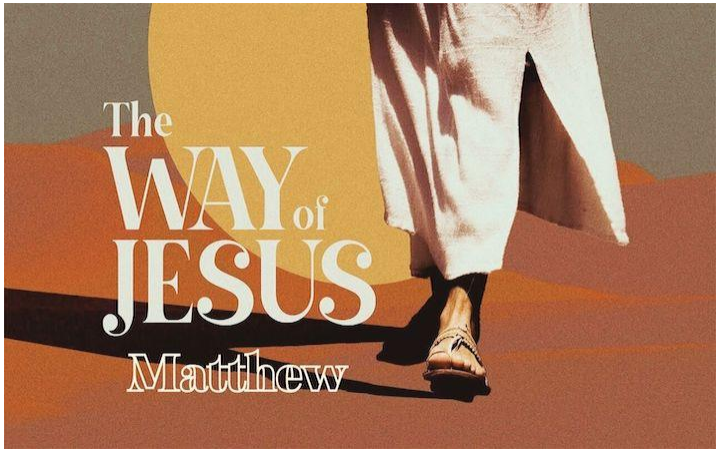


Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for August 20, 2023:
The Way of Jesus - Matthew: Great Faith



For personal reflection or for use as a devotion
with CGS Community or family

- **Begin by reflecting on/sharing a high and/or a low from your week**

- **CONNECT** *with each other*

- The story in Matthew 15:21-28 shows Jesus interacting with a persistent Canaanite woman that led to an unexpected outcome. When has your persistence (or the persistence of someone you know) led to an unexpected outcome? Was it a blessing?

- **GROW** *in Christ*

21 Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."

23 Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

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

25 The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

26 He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

27 "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

28 Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Matthew 15:21-28

- Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.
- How does the Canaanite woman approach Jesus in this passage? What does her initial request reveal about her situation and her understanding of Jesus?
- Analyze Jesus' initial response to the Canaanite woman's plea (Matthew 15:23). Why do you think Jesus does not immediately grant her request? What might this reveal about his mission and priorities?
- Explore the persistence of the Canaanite woman in seeking Jesus' help. How does she react to Jesus' initial response, and what does her perseverance demonstrate about her faith and determination?
- Examine the dialogue between Jesus and the Canaanite woman. How does her response to Jesus' statement about the children and the dogs (Matthew 15:26-27) showcase her humility and insight? What can we learn from her attitude?
- What is the significance of Jesus commending the Canaanite woman's faith as "great" (Matthew 15:28)? How does her faith stand out in this passage, and how does Jesus' response reflect his mission to reach both Jews and Gentiles?

- o Reflect on the implications of this passage for modern-day believers. How does the Canaanite woman's faith challenge us to approach Jesus in times of need? How does her story encourage us to persist in our prayers and trust in God's mercy?
- o How does this passage contribute to our understanding of Jesus' identity as the Savior and his mission to reconcile humanity to God? How does the Canaanite woman's encounter with Jesus illustrate the transformative power of faith?

- **SERVE** *others*

Just as the Canaanite woman displayed unwavering persistence and faith, where is an opportunity for you to make a positive impact, even when faced with challenges this week?

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing**

Heavenly Father, as the Canaanite woman approached Jesus with her plea, her faith in your mercy and grace shone brightly. In her humility, she recognized the crumbs of your abundant love were more than enough to heal her daughter. Just as she displayed unwavering faith and persistence, may we too approach you with trust and confidence in your power to transform our lives.

Help us remember that your compassion knows no boundaries, and that even in the face of challenges, our faith can move mountains. Just as you answered the Canaanite woman's prayer, we ask for your guidance and blessings in our lives. Strengthen our faith, grant us the humility to seek your will, and let us be living examples of your love and grace.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.