

A Mother's Prayers Making All The Difference Matthew 15:21-28

Introduction:

1. As parents, we love our children so much. We love them and want what is best for them. It grieves our hearts when they are sick, disturbed, depressed, or despondent, especially when they find themselves in some sort of spiritual bondage.
2. In our text, we have a mother whose daughter was in deep trouble. We don't know the details of how this happened. Somehow, Satan got a foothold in this home or in this girl's life and she became "*grievously vexed.*" (**Matthew 15:22**)
3. Satan was at work in this home, and today, he still is trying to demonize marriages, homes, kids, teenagers, and families. 1 Peter 5:8
4. Satan hates the home because it is the foundation of society. Satan wants to destroy families.
5. What is the solution? This mother is going to vividly demonstrate that Jesus Christ and prayers to God are the answer.
6. This mother desperately wanted Jesus involved in this situation and therefore, she sought Him. She knew she had to bring Christ in on the situation with her daughter.
7. Bringing the influence of Christ into your child's life is the most important thing you can do as a parent. Getting them in Little League, dance lessons, karate, band, or the advanced program at school is not the most important thing for your child.
8. It is bringing Jesus and who He is into their lives. This is what will liberate them and set them free to fulfill God's purpose for their life.
9. This mother teaches us that our prayers as parents can make all the difference in the world to our children. She teaches us some powerful lessons on how to pray for them.

We pray with intercession. vs. 21-22

1. Jesus went into an area called Tyre. Tyre was an ancient seaport city north of Israel. These Gentiles had heard of Jesus and the miracles that He did, and many of them had come to follow Jesus. Mark 3:8
2. Jesus had gone to Tyre for some rest and seclusion, but this woman heard that Jesus was in a certain house in the area. Mark 7:24

3. She seized the opportunity, entered the house, and cried out... (vs. 22). She laid out her request, and it was not for herself but for her daughter. She clearly understood that her daughter had some severe spiritual issues that could be directly traced to Satan's bondage. She was a discerning mother.
 - Notice how she identified herself with her child's sufferings – *"Have mercy on me...my daughter is...vexed."*
 - She pleaded for her daughter to Jesus. Her daughter wasn't there, so she pleaded **for** the girl as if it was her being vexed.
4. This is called intercessory prayer – praying for someone else that either cannot pray or doesn't see their need (1 Timothy 2:1). You are so identified with that person that you are standing before God in their place, asking God to do something or meet some need. What a powerful thing.
5. And without this mother's intercessory prayers, this girl would have never been set free from the bondage that she was in. What is the lesson?
6. Parents, from the time your child is conceived, you should be standing before the Lord interceding for their souls in prayer. Who is going to stand before God for them if you don't? Who will care? Who will pray?

We pray with persistence. vs. 23-25

1. In verse 23, it says that Jesus didn't answer her. He wasn't being rude, but rather, He was thinking, watching carefully to see what she was all about.
2. Jesus was not a miracle-making machine. He cared about people's hearts and their inner souls – their faith. So when people would come to Jesus, He would listen, think, converse, and carefully examine the situation.
3. As He was doing this, His disciples came to Him. They're like, "Get rid of this shrieking woman. She is driving us crazy, and she is going to end up attracting a crowd of people over here. Give her what she wants so she'll leave."
 - If they were pleading with Jesus to get rid of her, they probably had tried to get rid of her themselves, but they were unable to persuade her. She paid them no mind; she continued crying out.
4. Notice what Jesus told the disciples in verse 24. Jesus had a clearly defined mission – Israel. They were God's sheep and had gone astray.

- But through their conversion, the blessing of God would then flow to the Gentiles.
5. But Israel had not been converted yet. There was still work to do. This woman must have overheard this because then she came and fell at Jesus' feet and worshiped Him saying, "*Lord, help me*" (**Matthew 15:25**). The woman persistently prayed for her daughter.
 6. What Jesus said would have ended most conversations. But she didn't leave. Instead of hanging her head in dejection and walking away, she stood her ground and continued to seek His help. She could have gotten bitter and angry, but she was persistent and wouldn't let go.
 7. What is the lesson? In your walk with God, there are going to be those discouraging voices and those times when you feel that God is not listening.
 - Satan will urge you to give up. Quit praying for your son or daughter.
 8. Don't stop! Be persistent in prayer. This means you refuse to give up or to give in. It means that you continue no matter what may be discouraging you.
 9. As Christian parents, we need to have spiritual goals that we want to see God accomplish in our child's life, and until those goals are realized, don't quit praying.
 10. We need to remain in prayer, continuing to pray until we see an answer.
 - Paul said, "*Pray without ceasing*" (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**).
 - As well, Paul encouraged us to be "*praying always...with all perseverance...*" (**Ephesians 6:18**).
 - Don't stop!

We pray with complete faith. vs. 26-28

1. This mother ends up getting her prayer answered (Mark 7:30). When we compare Mark's account, it is clear that Jesus answered her prayer request because of her faith which was demonstrated through her words (vs. 28; Mark 7:29).
2. What did she say? Look at verses 26-27. At first glance, you might think, "Wow. Jesus was really rude to her." But we know Jesus was sinless and was very kind, gentle, meek, and patient. So what did He mean by this?
3. He was using an illustration to make a point. Israel was God's people; God's children (they had a seat at the table). Before the days when

- you had dog food, dogs ate the scraps from the table. A good parent would not take the food and feed the dog first. No, you make sure the children and family eat first and are filled.
4. So Jesus is reiterating the divine plan that God's blessings (God's food) must first go to His children (Israel), and after they are filled (received the bread - converted), then they would take that heavenly bread to others.
 5. She recognized (by faith) the divine plan that Israel (God's children) should have that opportunity to eat first (to see and hear Christ their Messiah). But then she used the same illustration to demonstrate her faith. The dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table.
 6. In other words, I am a Gentile, an outcast, that deserves no place at the table with you (just like us), but just a crumb of what you have to offer will be enough for me. Wow! What faith this woman demonstrated in Jesus Christ.
 7. She wasn't offended by Jesus' illustration. She understood clearly what He meant. However, she too carried out the metaphor to express her faith and to convince Him to help her. A crumb is enough for her, and the children will never miss it. She acknowledges the plan of God and that God's blessing will come to the Gentiles through Israel.
 - She completely submits herself to the plan and purpose of God.
 8. She basically says, "I believe you are the Bread from heaven, and just a crumb from you and everything will be okay." Guess what? She showed herself to be one of the children. Like Paul told the Galatians, "by faith, we are the children of Abraham." Jesus knew He could legitimately grant her request and still be true to the Father's divine plan.
 - Because of this mom's great faith, her daughter was healed.
 9. Moms and dads – get a hold of God (like this mother) in prayer, and pray believing that God is going to do something in your child's life. Hebrews 11:6; James 1:6; 1 Timothy 2:8
 10. More than our children need our money and material possessions, they need our prayers. They need a mom or a dad (or both) that seek the Lord for them daily, praying persistently in faith and interceding for them in prayer.
 11. So this mother's faith not only saved her, but healed and saved her daughter as well. And for us parents, it's that same faith that can make a difference in your life and in the life of your children. The Bible says that God is a rewarder of those that diligently seek him. Let's seek God in prayer for lives of our children.