



- Who first comes to your mind when you think of someone with great faith?
- Who did Jesus say it about?
 - When the boat was sinking in the storm Jesus told the disciples that they had little faith, because they were afraid.



- Jesus told a Roman centurion who came to heal his son: “with no one in Israel have I found such faith”
 - A Gentile vs. all of Israel!!!
 - The pharisees, sadducees, scribes?
 - His disciples?
 - His mother?
 - As far as we know ...
 - He didn't go to the synagogue each sabbath
 - He didn't read the torah or have torah studies
 - We don't know if he prayed to Jehovah, or prayed regularly



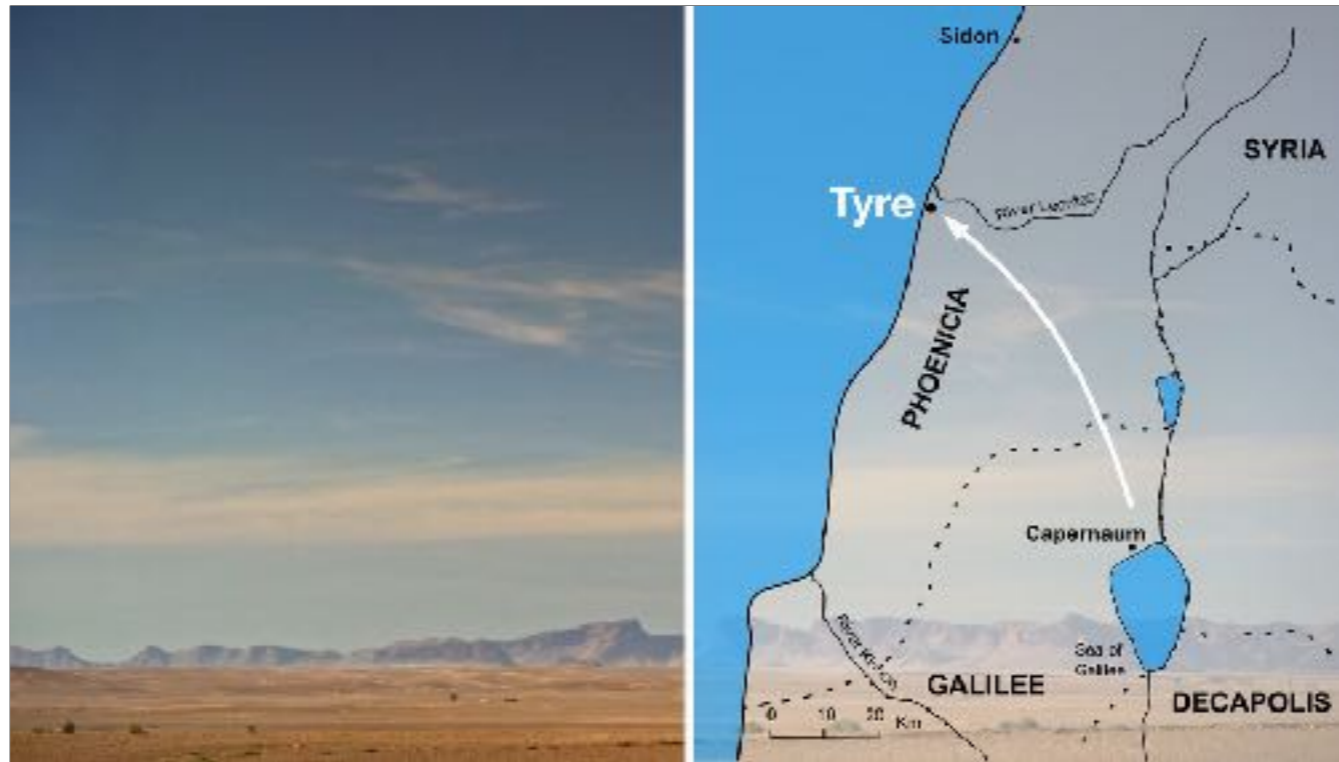
- What does great faith look like?
 - Untroubled? Unafraid?
 - Always confident? Always cheerful?
- Maybe great faith is found in people we don't expect
 - And in ways we don't expect either
- Maybe, like the Israelites, we need to redefine what we mean by great faith?
 - Our idea of faith needs to coincide with what Jesus teaches us



- Jesus specifically told one woman that she had great faith:
 - We don't know her name.
 - She's called a "Canaanite" woman (Mt. 15:22)
 - A syrophenician (Mark 7:26)
 - A gentile (Mark 7:26)
 - Matthew 15:28 Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith!"



- Again, this is not one of the chosen people of Israel.
 - This is not one who had the word of God given to them: Moses and prophets
 - Romans 9:4-5: They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. 5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.
- What can we learn from this woman that will help us to have great faith?



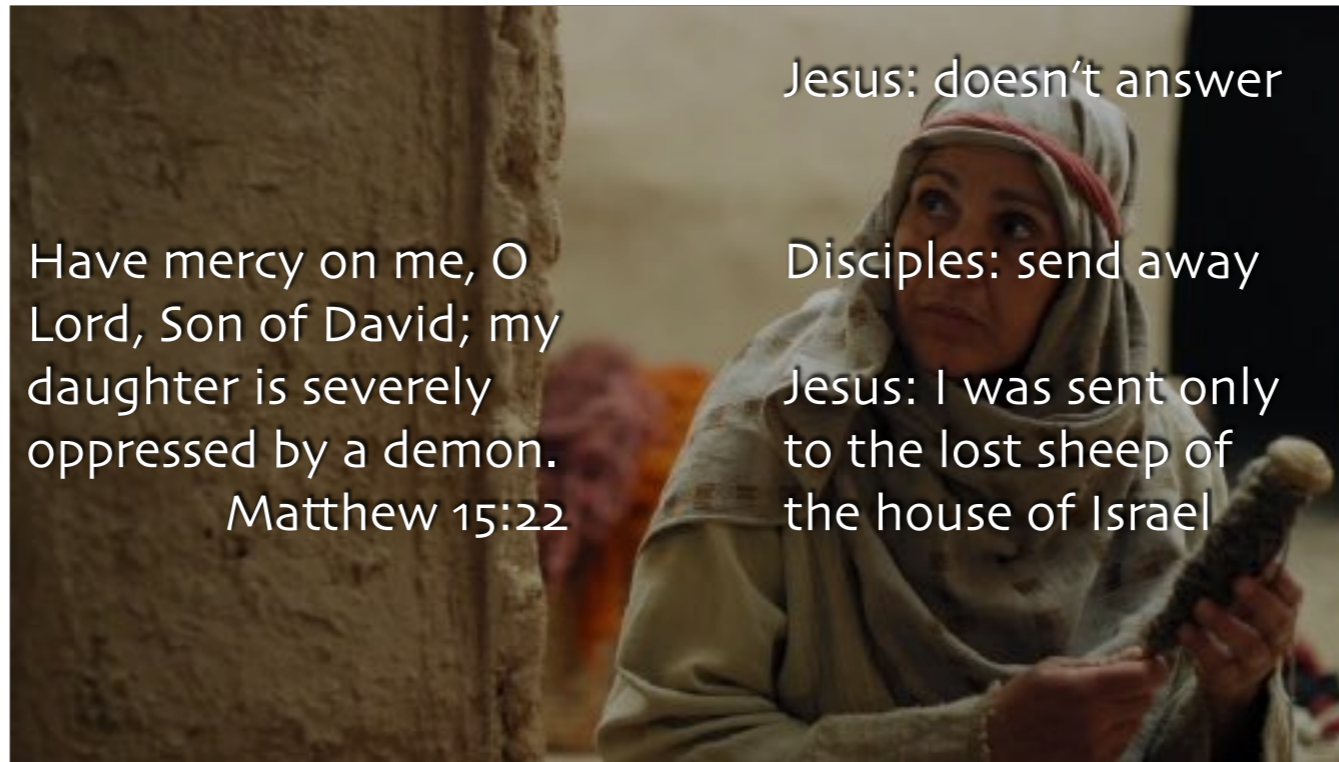
- Matthew 15:21 And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.
- Mark 7:24 And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden.



- Matthew 15:22 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.”



- Matthew 15:23 But he did not answer her a word.
- Why is Jesus silent?
 - It's not callousness
 - It's not rudeness
 - It's not a lack of compassion
- Jesus and the disciples had come for a specific reason
 - didn't want anyone to know
 - If Jesus healed this woman's daughter, what happens next?



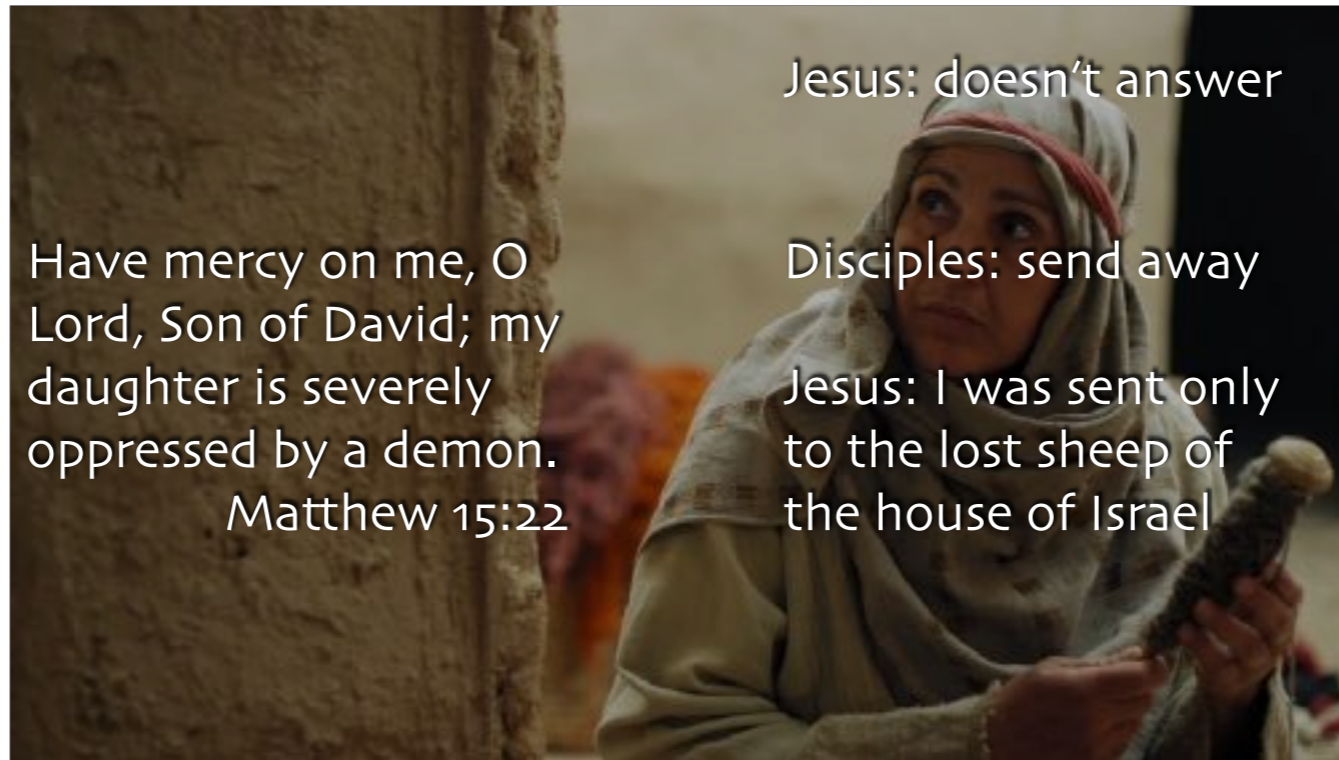
Have mercy on me, O
Lord, Son of David; my
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Matthew 15:22

Jesus: doesn't answer

Disciples: send away

Jesus: I was sent only
to the lost sheep of
the house of Israel

- Matthew 15:23 And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us."
 - Disciples, to me, seem annoyed by her
 - Understandably if they are tired and trying to keep hidden



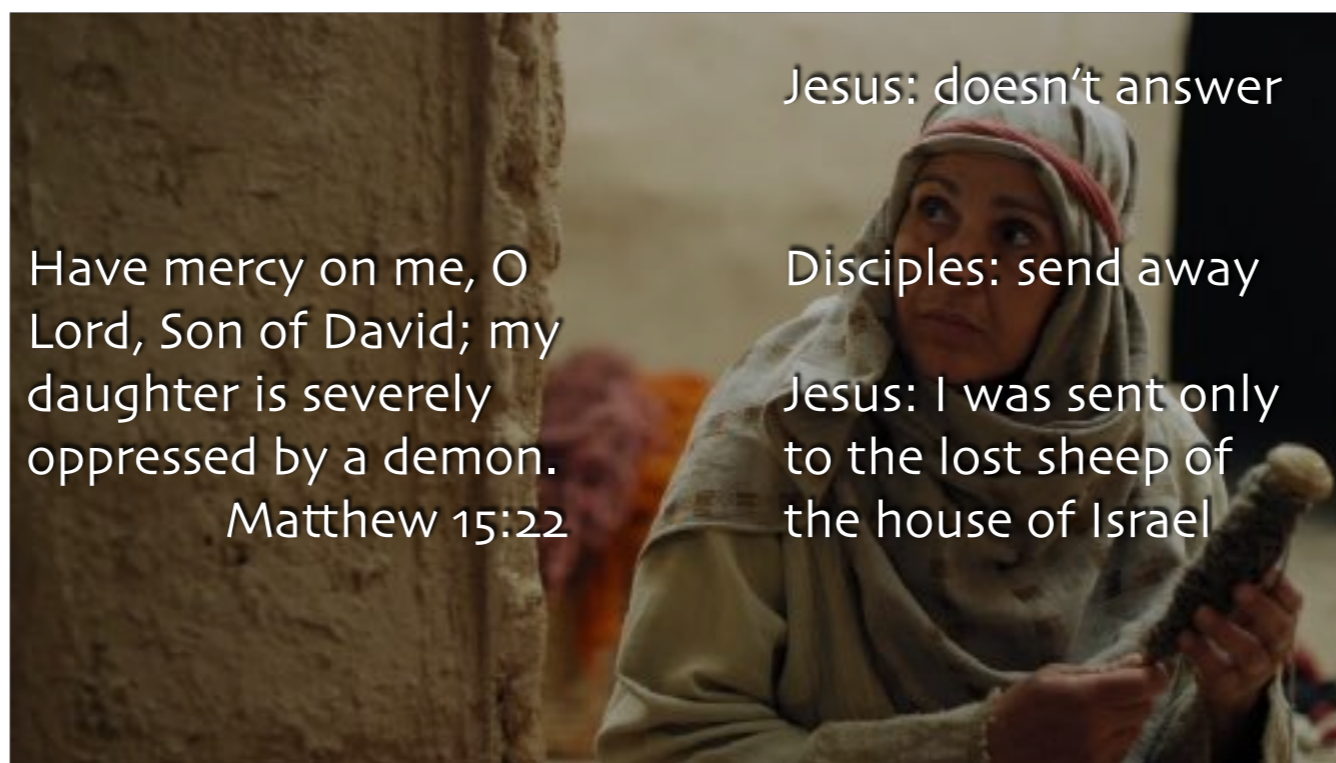
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Jesus: doesn't answer

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- Matthew 15:24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
 - This response seems to be to the disciples.
 - Don't know if the woman heard it or not.
 - If she did, it does sound dismissive.
 - The distinction between Jew and Gentile is real and had a purpose (for a time)
 - Matthew 10:5-7 (ESV) 5 These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, 6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'



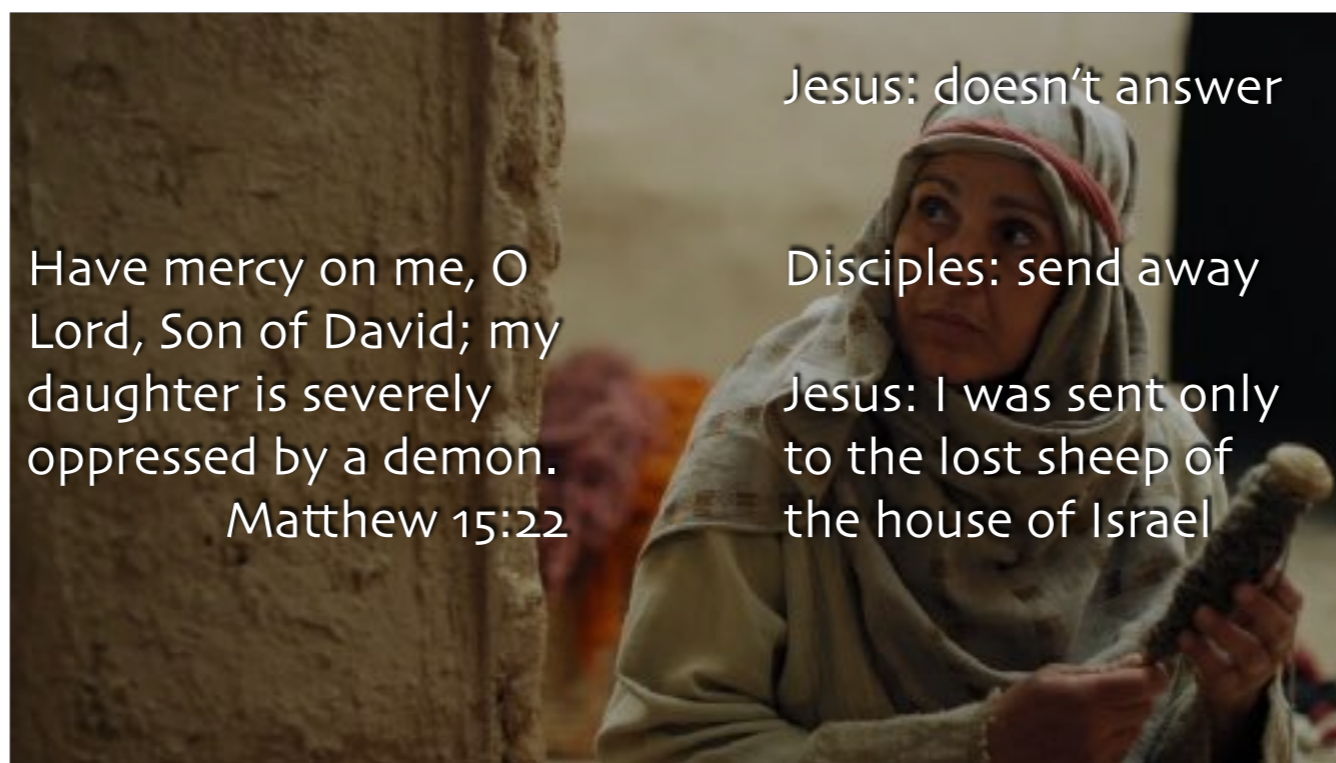
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Disciples: send away

Jesus: I was sent only
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- Note the condition of the people of Israel
 - “lost sheep”
 - Matthew 9:36 (ESV) 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
 - Israel was also direly in need up help: compassion: healing and teaching
 - God's own people needed Jesus' help and attention



- Did the disciples need to be reminded of this?
- Did the woman need to understand (in a non-judgy way) that Jesus had a plan and a purpose?
 - Did this help her to understand Jesus' inaction?

Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son
of David; my daughter is
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Matthew 15:22



- Matthew 15:22 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.”



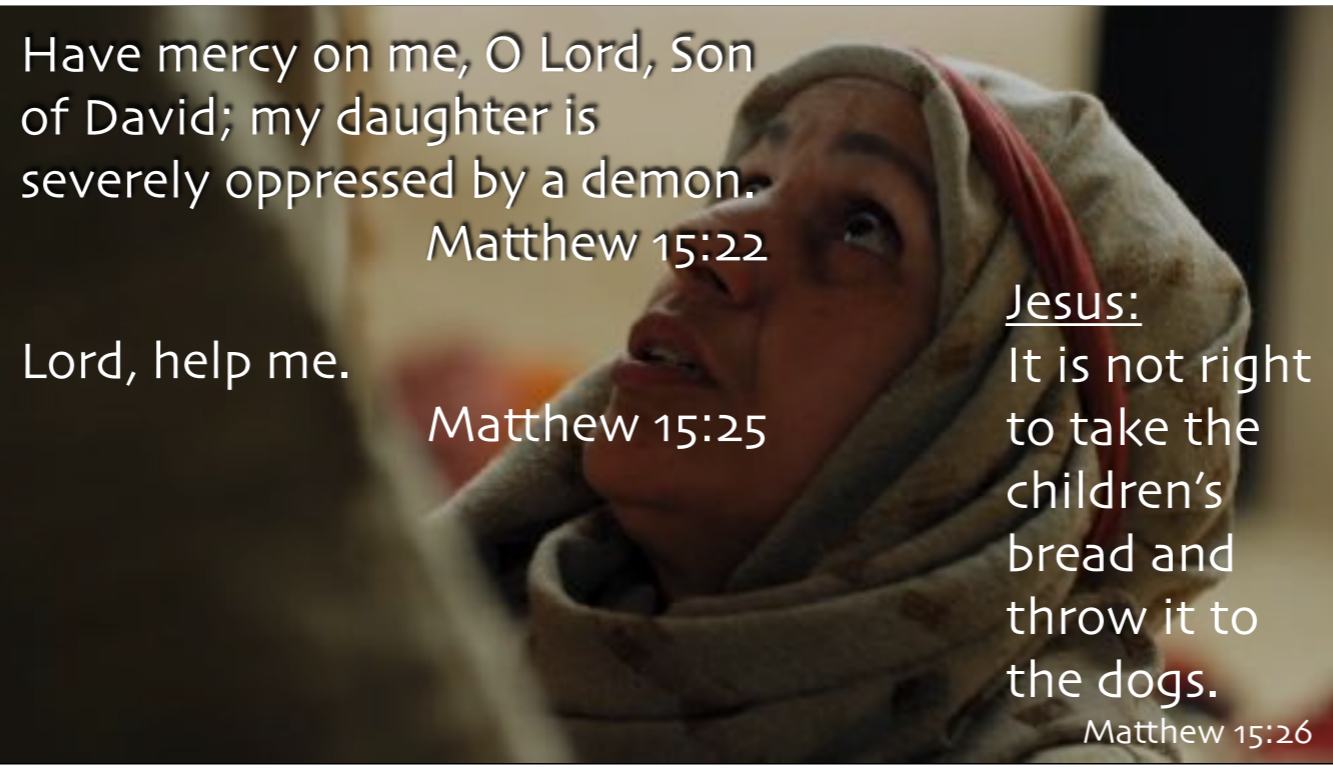
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of David; my daughter is
severely oppressed by a demon.

Matthew 15:22

Lord, help me.

Matthew 15:25

- Matthew 15:25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”



- Matthew 15:26 And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."



Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son
of David; my daughter is
severely oppressed by a demon.

Matthew 15:22

Lord, help me.

Matthew 15:25

Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat
the crumbs that fall from their
masters' table.

Matthew 15:27

It is not right
to take the
children's
bread and
throw it to
the dogs.

Matthew 15:26

- 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.

A woman wearing a light-colored headscarf with a red band is shown in profile, looking upwards with a prayerful expression. The background is blurred, suggesting an indoor setting. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Her Faith

Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son
of David; my daughter is
severely oppressed by a demon.

Matthew 15:22


Lord, help me.

Matthew 15:25

Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat
the crumbs that fall from their
masters' table.

Matthew 15:27

- The Woman's Faith Expressed



Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son
of David; my daughter is
severely oppressed by a demon.

Matthew 15:22

Lord, help me.

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Matthew 15:27

Her Faith

Lord

- Lord — depends, could be honorific, but could be recognizing who he is



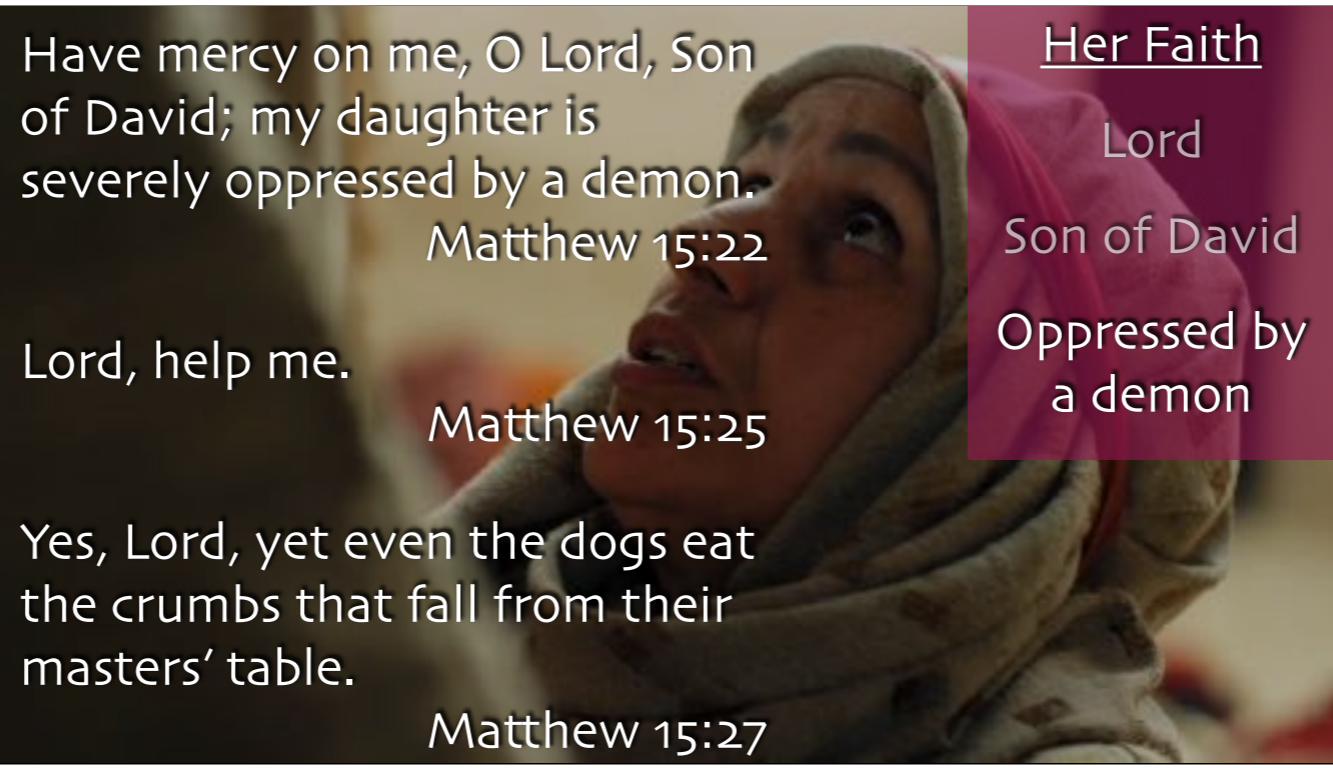
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Her Faith
Lord
Son of David

Lord, help me.
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Matthew 15:27

- Son of David — this does look to Jesus as the Messiah — who he is, chosen by God



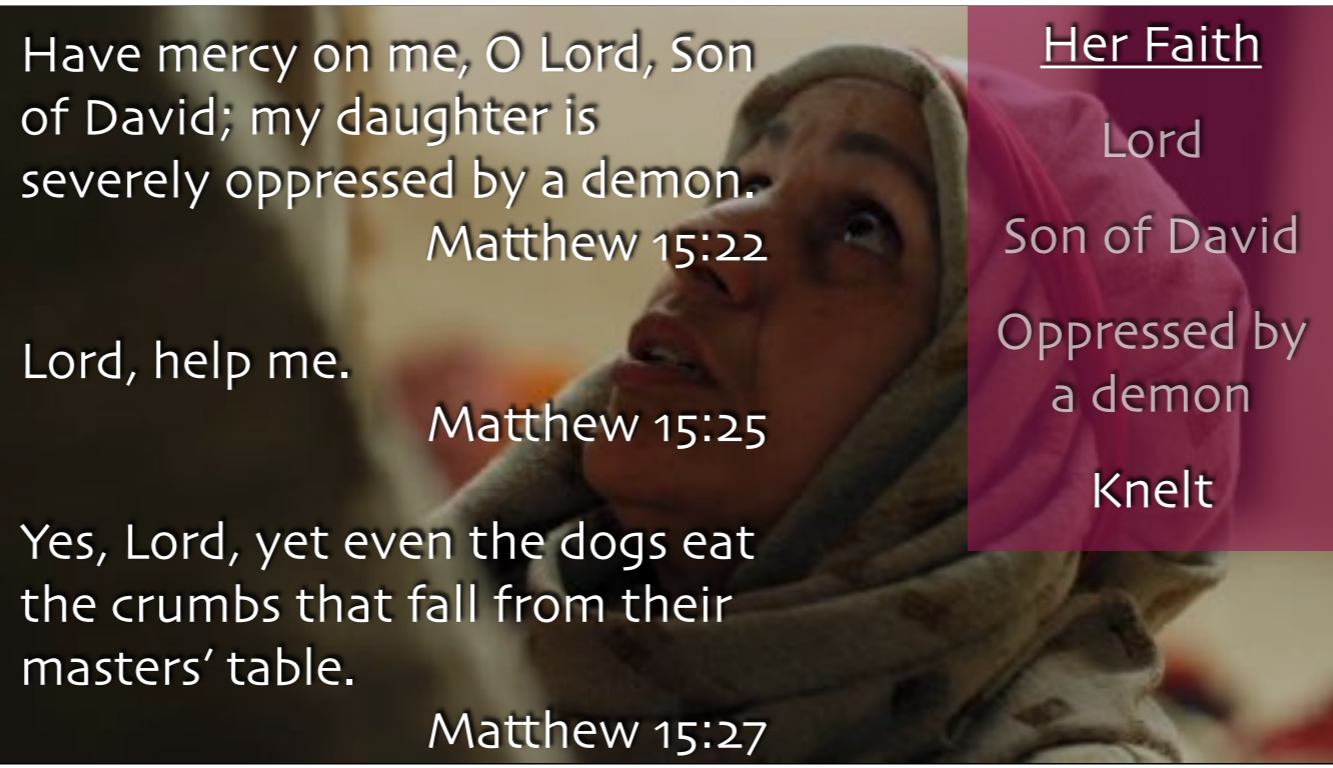
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Matthew 15:27

Her Faith
Lord
Son of David
Oppressed by
a demon

- Oppressed by Demon — power to cast out demon; authority
-



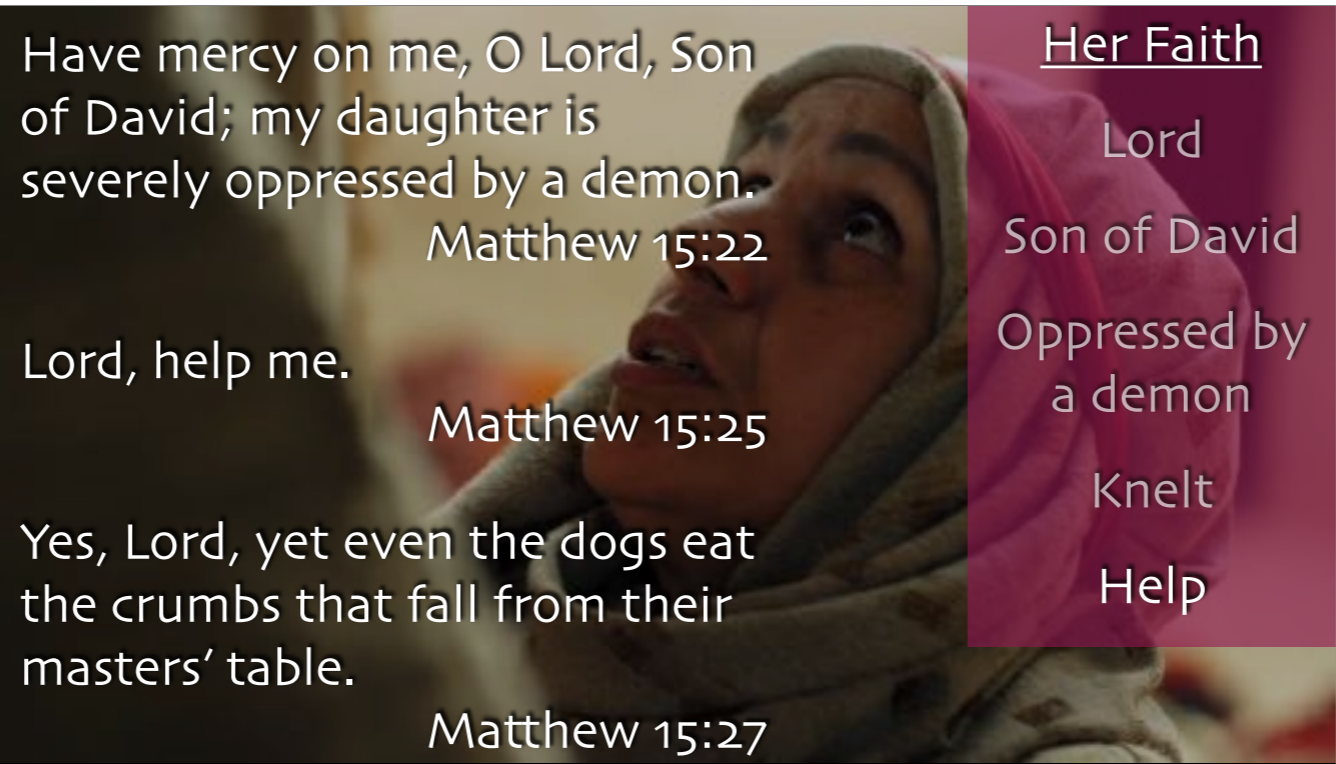
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Matthew 15:27

Her Faith
Lord
Son of David
Oppressed by
a demon
Knelt

- Knelt — honors (but also humble self before; pleading, begging (Mark 7:26))




Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son
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Her Faith
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Knelt
Help

- Help — ability to help in this situation



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Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat
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Her Faith
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Knelt
Help
Crumbs

- Crumbs —
 - This woman understands the power of God is great
 - And that the amount of power Jesus needs to heal her daughter is like a crumb from the table — almost nothing, it wouldn't be missed.
 - Even though Jesus is sent to Israel, healing her daughter would be a “minor” thing
 - This is great faith!
 - Daughter is healed instantly



- Can I have great faith?



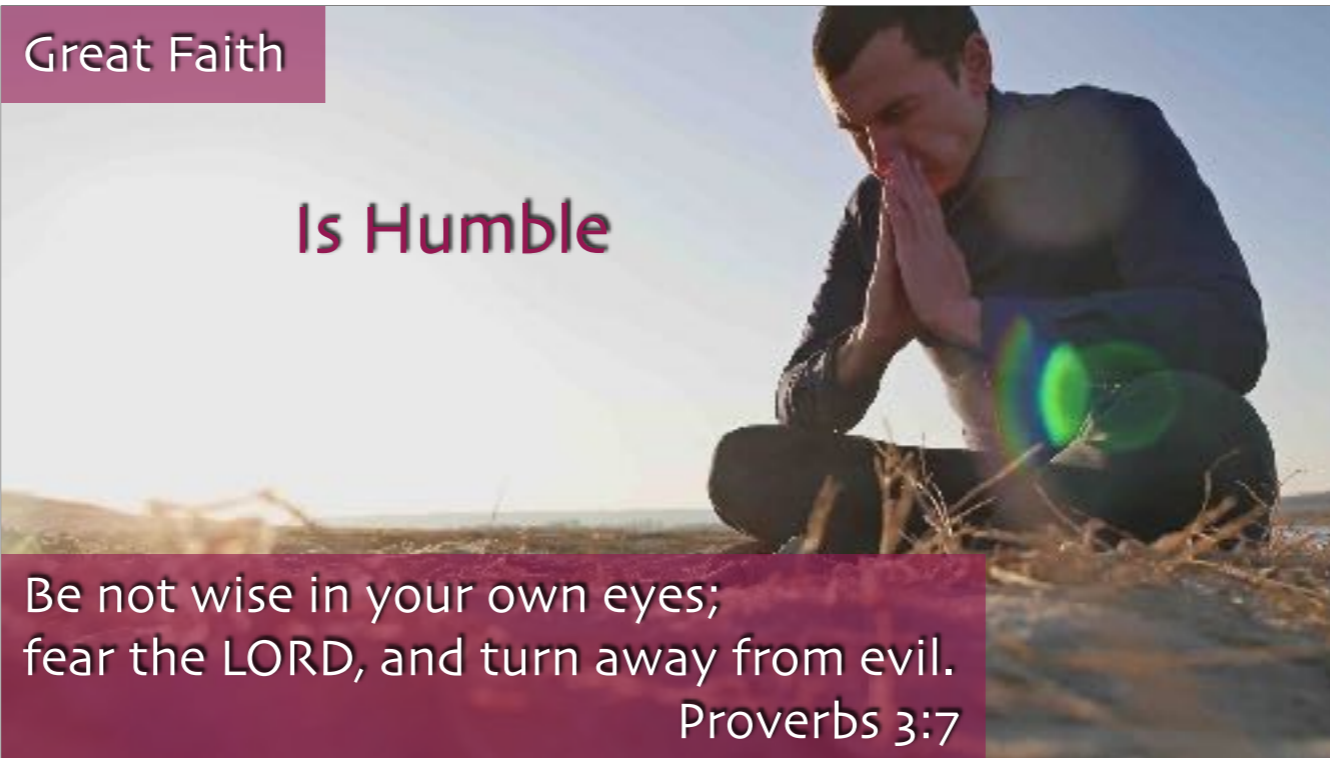
- Syrophenician Woman

- Crying, “O Lord”, “Lord”, knelt, fell down at his feet, begged
- Trusting in God instead of trusting in myself
 - It was obvious that the woman couldn’t cast out the demon herself
 - Too often, we think we can solve things on our own: whatever they may be



• Psalms 52:6-9 (ESV)

- 6 The righteous shall see and fear,
- and shall laugh at him, saying,
- 7 “See the man who would not make
- God his refuge,
- but trusted in the abundance of his riches
- and sought refuge in his own destruction!”
- 8 But I am like a green olive tree
- in the house of God.
- I trust in the steadfast love of God
- forever and ever.
- 9 I will thank you forever,
- because you have done it.
- I will wait for your name, for it is good,
- in the presence of the godly.



Great Faith

Is Humble

Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
Proverbs 3:7

• Proverbs 3:5-8 (ESV)

- 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
• and do not lean on your own understanding.
- 6 In all your ways acknowledge him,
• and he will make straight your paths.
- 7 Be not wise in your own eyes;
• fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
- 8 It will be healing to your flesh
• and refreshment to your bones.



- Keeps on Asking, but trusts in God's answer
- Syrochoenician Woman
 - Silence
 - Purpose/Plan
 - Response



- Persistent Widow

- Luke 18:1-8: 1 And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. 2 He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' 4 For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'"



- 6 And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. 7 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? 8 I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily.
- Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”



- How long? Where?
 - 14 times in the Psalms
- Psalms 13:1
 - 1 How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
 - How long will you hide your face from me?
 - 2 How long must I take counsel in my soul
 - and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
 - How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?



- 3 Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;
- light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,
- 4 lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
- lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.
- 5 But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
- my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
- 6 I will sing to the LORD,
- because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Great Faith

Is Awed by the Power of Jehovah



- Is Awed by the Power of Jehovah
- Syrophenician Woman
 - Crumb of power for Jesus to cast out demon

Great Faith

Is Awed by the Power of Jehovah

I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Job 42:2

- Power

- After talking about creation, animals, weather, behemoth and leviathan:
 - Job 42:2 “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.”
- Genesis 18:14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”
- Luke 1:37 For nothing will be impossible with God.”
- Luke 18:27 But he said, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

Great Faith

Is Awed by the Power of Jehovah

and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,
Romans 1:4

- Jesus

- Romans 1:4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

Great Faith

Is Awed by the Power of Jehovah

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Romans 1:20

- Romans 1:20 (ESV) 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Great Faith

Is Awed by the Power of Jehovah

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the
power of God for salvation to everyone who believes
Romans 1:16

- Romans 1:16-17 (ESV) 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

Great Faith

Is Awed by the Power of Jehovah

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

- Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.



- The Syrophenician woman reminds us that great faith is not about our background, our theology, or how much we obey the rules.
- Great faith is about knowing who Jesus is, understanding his power, and trusting in his mercy.

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Call to Action

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Mark 7:24-30

A SYROPHOENICIAN WOMAN BEGS JESUS FOR HELP

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Great Faith: The Syrophenician Woman

Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

Synopsis: Great faith is about knowing who Jesus is, understanding his power, and trusting in his mercy.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”