

A scenic view of a beach with waves, a white cross, and birds in the sky. The cross is on the left, and the text is in the upper right. The background shows a blue ocean with white waves, a sandy beach, and some green and brown vegetation in the foreground. The sky is light blue with a few birds flying.

Senior Bible Study Ministry

<https://www.seniorbiblestudies.org/>



GROWING
YOUR FAITH

Matthew 15 (NIV)

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."

Matthew 15 (NIV)

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.

Main Points

- Faith journey involves perseverance, humility & inclusivity
 - Persistence: key to growing faith
 - Humility: foundation of true faith
 - Inclusivity: faith transcends cultural barriers

Persistence

- Persistence
 - Essential in overcoming obstacles
 - Shows belief despite discouragement
 - Reflects deep faith and trust
- In this passage, Jesus tests the Gentile woman's persistence

Persistence

- In seeking out Jesus for her daughter's healing she
 - Demonstrates her desperate need and faith
 - Acknowledges Jesus' power & authority
 - Crosses cultural boundaries
 - Shows initial step in persistent faith
- Jesus initially responds with silence
- His silence tests the woman's resolve

Persistence

- The woman's faith remains strong despite Jesus' silence
- Her persistence intensifies despite initial discouragement
- She demonstrates unwavering faith & determination
- Her persistence grows as her faith deepens
- Jesus recognizes her faith & rewards her persistence by healing her daughter
- Her persistent faith is an encouragement for all believers



Humility &
Faith

Humility & Faith

- Humility is essential in approaching Jesus
- We must recognize our need for God's mercy
- The woman's humility acknowledges Jesus' authority, superiority & power
- As a Canaanite, she was considered an outsider to the Jews
- Faith starts with recognizing our humble position

Humility & Faith

- Jesus' initial reply refers to Israel's priority in ministry
- The woman acknowledges Israel's chosen status & humbly seeks the crumbs of grace
- Her humble response shows a deep understanding of grace
- Humility leads to recognition by Jesus

inclusion



Inclusion

- God's kingdom is inclusive
- Jesus travels to Gentile regions
- His ministry extends beyond Israel
- He emphasizes faith over cultural boundaries
- Faith
 - Unites diverse peoples
 - Breaks barriers of exclusivity
 - Goes beyond geographic limits

Inclusion

- Jesus acknowledges & rewards Gentile faith
- Faith, not ethnicity, determines response
- Jesus' actions foreshadow Paul's Gentile mission
- Healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter
 - Demonstrates God's power & grace
 - Encourages faith across cultural boundaries

Inclusion

- Inclusivity strengthens universal faith
- Emphasizes unity in diversity through faith

Application

- Persistence
 - Remain steadfast in faith challenges
 - Trust God despite silence
 - Seek Jesus persistently in difficulties
 - Persevere with unwavering faith
 - Experience growth through persistence

Application

- Humility
 - Approach God with humble hearts
 - Acknowledge need for God's grace
 - Recognize Jesus' authority in faith
 - Cultivate humility in daily life
 - Let humility deepen your faith

Application

- Inclusivity
 - Embrace faith beyond cultural boundaries
 - See everyone as equal in faith
 - Share the gospel inclusively
 - Unite in faith, embracing differences

Actions

- Keep faith alive through persistence
- Embrace humility as a faith foundation
- Promote inclusivity in faith practice
- Trust God's faithfulness in growing faith
- Celebrate your journey of growing in faith

Questions

- How can you practice persistence in your faith?
- In what areas do you need more humility?
- How can you embrace inclusivity in your faith community?
- What steps can you take to grow your faith?
- How does this passage challenge your faith?
- What barriers have you faced in your faith?
- How has God rewarded your persistent faith?



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