

Joyful Life Bible Studies  
Women of the Word  
The Syrophenician Woman

Lesson 22

**FIRST DAY:** Review and Overview

1. Before moving on to the next Woman of the Word, take one more look at Euodias and Syntyche (Philippians 4:1-4). Share one thing you have learned from their example.
2. How would you like to meet a woman of great faith? You will; through your study of this week's lesson. It is interesting to note that although we will never know her name, we will remember her great faith. What do you learn about her from Matthew 15:22a and Mark 7:26a?
3. Faith is absolutely essential to our Christian life. With this in mind begin your lesson by writing a prayer asking the Lord, as the apostles did: Increase our faith. (Luke 17:5)

*And the apostles said to the Lord, Increase our faith- that trust and confidence that springs from our belief in God.*

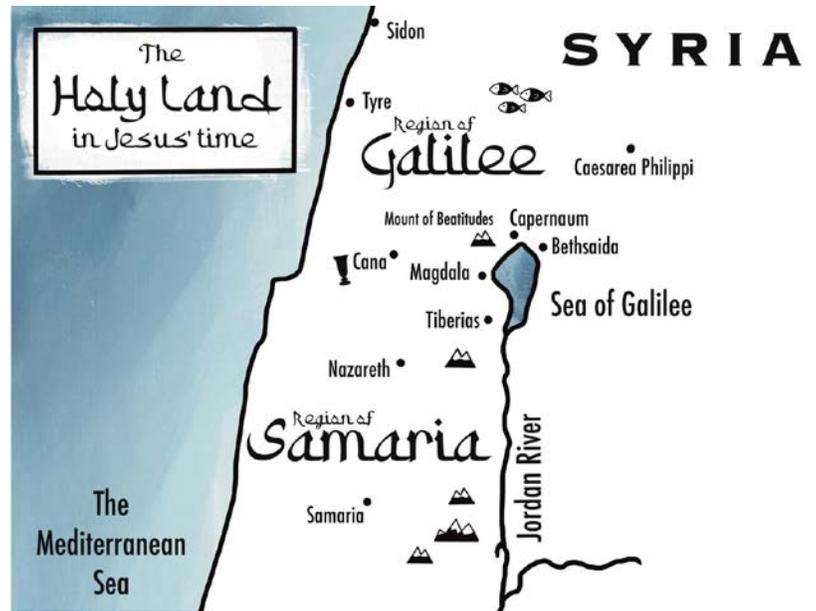
*Luke 17:5 AMP*

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**SECOND DAY:** Read Matthew 15:21,22

1. Follow Jesus as He journeyed from Galilee and departed into the coast of Tyre and Sidon. Do this by locating this area on the map and outline the route from Capernaum to the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.

2. Describe from Matthew 15:22 what occurred when He arrived there.



a. Think for a moment about the disadvantages this woman faced. She was a woman of Canaan, a Greek (Gentile), from the region of Syrophenicia. (Matthew 15:22, Mark 7:26). The Canaanites were enemies of the Israelites and Jews had no dealings with Gentiles. In that culture women were forbidden to speak to men in public. What desperate circumstance compelled her to speak to Jesus? Matthew 15:22c.

*Advanced Students: Explain the phrase, Son of David.*

3. Look at this scene through Mark's account in Mark 7:24-26. Record any additional information concerning this event.

a. Apparently, news of Jesus and His miracles had reached the area where this woman lived. She was determined to find and ask for Jesus' help. How is this woman's faith and determination an example for you?

**THIRD DAY:** Read Matthew 15:23-25

1. Focus on this woman's desperation to beseech Jesus, the One she had heard about Who had power to heal. Picture her crying out in faith to Him for mercy and asking Him to heal her daughter. Now, focus on Jesus' response to her in Matthew 15:23a. What do you hear?

a. What must it have been like for her when Jesus did not acknowledge or answer her? His silence must have been devastating. Pastor Chuck explains: Jesus knew all along that He was going to heal her daughter. He knew the faith that was in the heart of this desperate mother. He was seeking to draw out her faith to its fullest expression. How does this speak to you when you don't seem to receive immediate answers to prayer?

(1.) How would Proverbs 3:5,6 help you with this? Selah

b. What was the disciples solution to her problem? Matthew 15:23b

2. Write Jesus' answer from Matthew 15:24.

Challenge: Use Matthew 10:5,6 to help explain His answer.

3. If Jesus' silence was difficult to experience, think how these words could have utterly demolished any hope of help for this Syrophenician woman. Record her awesome response to Jesus' seeming rejection. Matthew 15:25

4. Her response to Jesus is an example for all of us in desperate times. Share an example of this, if not too personal.

*My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him. Trust in Him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.--Psalm 62:5,8*

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Matthew 15:26-28

1. It would seem from Jesus' response to the Syrophenician woman that He was ignoring her plea for help. What was His answer to her plea? Matthew 15:26

2. The word Jesus used for dogs here was not the word the Jews usually used to refer to Gentiles. Jesus used a word that meant little puppies, indicating household pets. Note this woman's response in Matthew 15:27. She affirmed what Jesus said. In a sense as Pastor Chuck says: She was saying: Lord, I am only asking for the crumbs. She did not argue or turn away offended and rejected. Instead she used His words to continue her pleading for her daughter's healing. What did she say?

3. Now we come to the supreme moment of this woman's encounter with Jesus. With joy and wonder print Jesus' answer to this desperate woman. Matthew 15:28

a. Meditate for a few moments on Jesus' words: O woman, great is thy faith. What was the result of this woman's great faith? Matthew 15:28c

4. She courageously and humbly sought the Lord and overcoming all obstacles cried out to Him to heal her daughter. Not only did Jesus answer her request; He gave her an exceptional commendation concerning her faith. How does this inspire you to a greater measure of faith?

**FIFTH DAY:** Read Mark 7:27-30

1. It is interesting to compare the account in the Gospel of Mark to what we have studied in Matthew. Follow the Syrophenician woman and view her interaction with Jesus by reading Mark 7:(25,26) 27-29. Note and write any additional information concerning this event.

2. Read Mark 7:30. Walk with this mother into her house and describe what you see.

a. What is your reaction to this?

b. How does this miracle affect your faith today?

3. We recognize through this miracle that Jesus' healing power is not limited to His being physically present. How does this encourage you?

*Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus is the same. All may change but Jesus never. Glory to His name.*

*-selected* 🎵

**SIXTH DAY:** Review Matthew 15:21-28

1. We recognize that through trials our faith has an opportunity to grow. What did the Syrophenician woman experience that gave her faith a chance to grow?

a. How will remembering this help when you experience trials?

2. In what way has your study this week helped increase your knowledge of Jesus and His ways?

3. Think of the Syrophenician woman's perseverance. How is this an example for you?
  
4. In what way has the Syrophenician woman's faith affected you?
  
5. Share something from this study that you will apply to your life.

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.  
Hebrews 11:1*