



Lesson 34 – Barriers Broken Down

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

After an encounter with the Pharisees, Jesus withdrew from Capernaum, and crossing Galilee, repaired to the hill country on the borders of Phoenicia. Looking westward, He could see, spread out upon the plain below, the ancient cities of Tyre and Sidon, with their heathen temples, their magnificent palaces and marts of trade, and the harbors filled with shipping. Beyond was the blue expanse of the Mediterranean, over which the messengers of the gospel were to bear its glad tidings to the centers of the world's great empire. But the time was not yet.

The work before Him now was to prepare His disciples for their mission. In coming to this region He hoped to find the retirement He had failed to secure at Bethsaida. Yet this was not His only purpose in taking this journey. The spies they sent to Capernaum in the early part of His ministry, who had tried to fix on Him the charge of Sabbath breaking, had been put to confusion; but the rabbis were bent on carrying out their purpose. Now another deputation was sent to watch His movements and find some accusation against Him.

- 1) What happened while He was there?

Matthew 15:22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is _____ with a devil.

These people were idolaters and were despised and hated by the Jews. To this class belonged the woman who now came to Jesus. She was a heathen and was therefore excluded from the advantages which the Jews daily enjoyed.

She had sought help from the heathen gods but had obtained no relief. And at times she was tempted to think, what can this Jewish teacher do for me? But the word had come, He heals all manner of diseases, whether those who come to Him for help are rich or poor. She determined not to lose her only hope.

- 2) How did Jesus Reply?

Matthew 15:23-24 But he answered her not a _____. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her _____; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

- 3) Did the lady give up?

Matthew 15:25 Then came she and _____ him, saying, Lord, help me.

- 4) Did Jesus comply with her request?

Matthew 15:26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to _____.

- 5) Did Jesus care? _____

This answer would have utterly discouraged a less earnest seeker. But the woman saw that her opportunity had come. Beneath the apparent refusal of Jesus, she saw a compassion that He could not hide.

Christ knew this woman's situation. He knew that she was longing to see Him, and He placed Himself in her path. By ministering to her sorrow, He could give a living representation of the lesson He designed to teach.



For this He had brought His disciples into this region. He desired them to see the ignorance existing in cities and villages close to the land of Israel. The people who had been given every opportunity to understand the truth were without a knowledge of the needs of those around them.

6) How did lady reply to Jesus?

Matthew 15:27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the _____ which fall from their masters' table.

7) What did Jesus tell her?

Matthew 15:28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy _____: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

The Saviour is satisfied. He has tested her faith in Him. By His dealings with her, He has shown that she who has been regarded as an outcast from Israel is no longer an alien, but a child in God's household. As a child it is her privilege to share in the Father's gifts. Christ now grants her request, and finishes the lesson to the disciples.

He wished to relieve the afflicted woman, and at the same time to leave an example in His work of mercy toward one of a despised people for the benefit of His disciples when He should no longer be with them. He wished to lead them from their Jewish exclusiveness to be interested in working for others besides their own people.

8) What did Paul later say in his letter to the Ephesians?

Ephesians 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same _____, and partakers of his _____ in Christ by the gospel:

9) What did Jesus say when she asked for help?

Matthew 15:24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of _____.

This woman was one of the lost sheep that Israel should have rescued. It was their appointed work, the work which they had neglected, that Christ was doing.

10) For who's benefit did He do this?

John 20:31 But these are written, that _____ might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have _____ through his name.

The spirit which built up the partition wall between Jew and Gentile is still active. Pride and prejudice have built strong walls of separation between different classes of men.

11) What did Paul tell the men of Athens?

Acts 17:28 For in him we _____, and _____, and have our _____; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

Caste is hateful to God. He ignores everything of this character. In His sight the souls of all men are of equal value.



12) Who then shall be saved?

Romans 10:11-13 For the scripture saith, Whosoever _____ on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the _____ and the _____: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be _____.

13) What is God's will for us?

Acts 17:26-27 And hath made of _____ blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should _____ the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not _____ from every one of us:

14) Who is more important?

Galatians 3:28-29 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all _____ in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and _____ according to the promise.

15) What did Solomon have to say about it?

Proverbs 22:2 The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the _____ of them all.

In faith the woman of Phoenicia flung herself against the barriers that had been piled up between Jew and Gentile. Against discouragement, regardless of appearances that might have led her to doubt, she trusted the Saviour's love. It is thus that Christ desires us to trust in Him. The blessings of salvation are for every soul.

Nothing but his own choice can prevent any man from becoming a partaker of the promise in Christ by the gospel.

Can you see that God is no respecter of persons?

Do you want to see people the way Jesus sees people?

When is the time to share what you have?