

YPG III

05 May 2018

Theme: Discipleship

Title: "An Example of Great Faith (I)"

Text: Matthew 15: 21 – 26

AN EXAMPLE OF ONE WHO DISPLAYED GREAT FAITH

1. What does it mean to have faith?
 - a. Faith is much more than a verbal claim to believe
 - b. Faith has to do with our response to the Lord Jesus
2. The evaluation of the faith of the disciples thus far
 - a. Little faith (Matthew 8: 26)
 - b. Practically, it is like having no faith (cf. Mark 4: 40, Mark 9: 19)
3. An example of great faith must be shown to teach them
 - a. It will clarify
 - b. It will illustrate

FEATURES OF THE FAITH OF THE WOMAN OF CANAAN

1. It was genuine
 - a. Driven by needs
 - b. There was a genuine hope that the Lord would help her
2. It persevered though correction was needed
 - a. Her approach to the Lord Jesus was wrong initially
 - i. She was a foreigner
 - ii. But she used the title, "Son of David"
 - iii. The Lord Jesus had to correct her
"I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel"
 - b. She changed her approach
 - i. She came and worshipped Him

- ii. She stopped using the title, “Son of David”
 - iii. She pleaded on the basis of His Lordship instead
- 3. It displayed deep humility
 - a. Imagery used by the Lord Jesus
 - i. Bread is meant for the children first
 - ii. It is not meant to be thrown to the little dogs
 - b. Deep humility in her response

Matthew 15: 27

“Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table”

- i. She was willing to accept a lower position that she was not of Israel and thus undeserving of anything
- ii. She was willing to take the crumbs which may fall

APPLICATION TO OURSELVES

1. The state of our faith can be seen in our approach to the Lord Jesus
2. When we seek help from the Lord Jesus
 - a. Are we presumptuous?
 - b. Do we feel entitled?
 - c. If there is no immediate answer, do we turn away all too quickly?
3. Do we take the time to re-examine our approach to the Lord?

CHALLENGE TO CULTIVATE A GREAT FAITH

1. A faith that is genuine
2. A faith that perseveres
3. A faith that displays deep humility