

# Mother of Faith

## Introduction:

The gospels/encounters where Jesus had one on one conversations with woman, typically of unique faith.

Story of the young couple who have their new child...

A. The Bible acknowledges that though we were both created in the image of God we're not created identically.

**1 Pet. 3:7-** women are weaker than men physically

B. Few things stronger than the love a mother has for her children (Lady who drowned her own children)

**Read Matt. 15:21-28**

C. This is a great story/ a person you wouldn't notice and gets the attention of Jesus

1. Mary Magdalene
2. Blind man at the pool of Siloam
3. The paralytic
4. The man w/ leprosy
5. The Centurion
6. The bleeding woman
7. Mary and Jesus' anointing
8. Woman weeping at Jesus' feet

**Observation:** Those often dismissed, could have a faith that God will not dismiss

## I. The Encounter

A. Jesus traveled to Tyre and Sidon:

1. This means very little to us today.
2. Tyre and Sidon was another expression for pagan land.
3. Matthew calls her a Canaanite! (Joshua was told to wipe out the Canaanites)

B. What's Jesus doing up there in the first place?

1. One reason why-- he just preached a "moving" sermon (a u-haul sermon)
2. **Matt. 15:1-21** (traditions/God's will) - the moving sermon
  - a. He goes to Tyre and Sidon to get away **Mk. 7:24**
  - b. This woman comes to Jesus and will press Him until she has Jesus' attention
3. Of all the people who ever approached Jesus, she has the most strikes against her
  - a. Gender
  - b. Her race
  - c. The Devil
  - d. Jesus' disciple (Send her away!!)
  - e. Jesus (so it seems)

4. This is a woman that is easy to dismiss

- a. But there's one thing about her that you can't dismiss-- her faith-
- b. The only other person Jesus mentions about having great faith is the Centurion (Matt. 8:5-13)

**The point: People you would never bother to notice can be people who have the kind of faith God notices**

## -Story of Edna Butterfield

C. If this woman, with all those strikes against her can have great faith, you can too!

- a. No matter your race, gender, no matter how much it seems like the devil's against you
- b. You can have the kind of faith that gets the attention of Jesus

## II. What this kind of faith looks like:

A. Her faith was motivated by **desperation** ( deliverance/etiquette)

1. God allows difficult circumstance to humble our pride and teach us to be desperate **2 Cor. 1:8-11**
2. Great faith is typically found in people who don't think they're so great

B. Her faith was demonstrated by **persistence**

1. God wants us to ask him again and again (I'm not always sure why)
2. Jesus taught a parable about prayer **Lk. 18:1-8** (Never give up)

C. Her faith was immersed in **humility**

1. Out of character for Jesus-- but he was answering His call- Abraham (**Gen. 18:18**)
  - a. **Remember Jesus said to the woman at the well- "salvation is from the Jews"**
  - b. Also- **Matt. 10:5-7** (Jesus was to lay his foundation of the Jews)
2. Jesus opens the door for this woman
  - a. Even the dogs get a scrap from the masters table... that's all I need!--Jesus calls her a dog **Mk. 7:26-28**
  - b. She didn't obligate God to give her what she wanted, but she asked
3. Faith is going to be **desperate**, and keep you **asking**-- but it also is going to keep **humble** understanding

**III. Here's a faith that God views great**

- A. Great faith defuses doubts about God's goodness when circumstance suggest otherwise
  1. We can all think of a time when it felt like God was ignoring you.
  2. Great faith says that God is good even when reason tells us otherwise  
**The story of the young boy on the roof of his house.**
  3. Great faith refuses to let anyone but Jesus have the last word
  4. Great faith infuses others with the power of God
    - a. Faith is social, communal... The gospel is filled with people who believed other people into the Kingdom
    - b. I was believed into the kingdom of God by the faith of someone else-- (my mother!)
- B. You can have this kind of faith!

**Conclusion**

- If you do not have a mother of faith, consider people like Mary Anstey, or even this Canaanite woman
- Pray a desperate prayer for someone who needs to come in contact with Christ.
- This morning God wants you to come in contact with Him. Have you ever answered the call to become a Christian?

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