

Victory Is Coming!

Encouragement for Battle-Wearied Christians

Chapter Four



Matthew 15

While Pharisees approached Jesus in arrogance, a simple woman from Canaan cried out in need and fell at Jesus' feet. "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly" (Matthew 15:22 NIV).

Oddly enough, Jesus pretended he didn't hear her. The disciples, growing uncomfortable at the scene she was making, urged Jesus to send her away. Ever been at a low point yourself and the very people you thought would stand with you turn away in embarrassment? Have there been times when Jesus seems distant and deaf to your pleas? His hearing is just fine; he does care. He might just be testing *your* level of commitment. Do you truly believe he has the answer you seek? He doesn't enjoy religious debates that skim the surface of propriety and never examine bedrock principles of God, such as compassion.

For reflection

"Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs," she replied (Mark 7:28 NIV).

Her pluckiness demolished any need for theological debates. She knew God had more than enough food for all and that he was good. She didn't get sidetracked in stereotypes or genealogy. Just as she advocated for her little girl, she knew her heavenly Father looked out for her. Even God's "crumbs" are so filling and rich that no other banquet can compare.

Then Jesus told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter" (Mark 7:29 NIV). No sirens went off, nor did any fanfare follow the announcement. The Canaanite woman took Jesus at his word. While others nitpicked his teaching, this woman petitioned with her whole heart and mind. Her daughter was healed at that very hour.