

The Miracles of Jesus**Pastor Charles B. Jackson, Sr., Presenter***Miracle: "A Happening with Which Human Reasoning Has Yet To Catch Up."*

-Dr. William Augustus Jones

Miracle #21 – Jesus Heals a Gentile Woman's Demon Possessed Daughter**Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30****• Matthew 15:21-23**

Jesus arrives in the land of the Gentiles. Mark's gospel said a woman who was a Greek, a Syrophenician, came to Him on behalf of her daughter. He used the term as a synonym for "non-Jew." Matthew identified the woman as a Canaanite, one of the ancient pagan nations who were enemies of Israel. This is the only miracle Jesus performs for a pagan in Gentile lands. The woman begged Him to help her severely demon-possessed daughter.

• Romans 1:16

The woman referred to Jesus as "**Son of David.**" This title is reserved for Israel's Messiah, the promised King from David's line. In using this title, the Canaanite woman acknowledged Jesus as the Jewish Messiah.

When Jesus did not answer, the disciples asked Jesus to get rid of the woman because she was bothering them with her begging. They showed no compassion for her and no sensitivity to her needs.

• Matthew 15:24-27

Jesus had earlier sent His disciples on a preaching mission with the warning to avoid the Gentiles. Christ was Israel's Messiah.

• Matthew 10:5-6

His mission required Him to concentrate His initial efforts on recalling Israel who had drifted away from God and no longer honored the relationship with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jesus had to present Himself first to Israel as the fulfillment of the prophets' hopes and dreams. In verse 25 – the woman hit a slam dunk. She worshipped Him and said, "**Lord, help me.**"

“It is not meet to take the children’s bread and cast it to dogs.” The Israelites used the word **“dog”** in reference to Gentiles. He was saying to this Canaanite woman, **“I know you don’t expect me to perform a miracle for you when you’re a Gentile. I am a Jew. You are an enemy of the Jews.”**

Such a rebuff would have driven many of us away. But this woman said, **“Yes, Lord. I’m willing to accept the crumbs that fall from your table.”**

In verse 22 the Canaanite woman said, **“Son of David”** in reference to Israel. In verse 25 she said, **“Lord”** in reference to all mankind.

Here is where Jesus establishes the **“whosoever”** of the Christian faith.

- **John 3:16**
- **Romans 10:1-4; 9-13**
- **John 11:25**
- **Matthew 15:28**

Jesus acknowledged and commended the faith in the woman’s statement, then healed her daughter. While the woman had no right to a miracle healing – for these were intended as signs and witnesses to God’s chosen people; her faith caused a crumb to fall into her life.

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