

Matthew Week 28: Faith of the Canaanite Woman

Scripture Memory of the Month

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

- Matthew 28:19-20

1) CATCH UP ON LIFE

This is when we update each other on the day in and day out happenings of our lives. Because God is our Father we are family. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?

What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)? Are there any practical needs you have right now?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2) DISCUSS THE TEXT - ENGAGE THE HEART

Since we follow Jesus we seek to apply the Gospel continually to all of life. God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25).

Read Matthew 15:21-28

What stands out about Jesus' interaction with the Canaanite woman? How about the Woman's approach to Jesus?

The canaanite woman was an outsider and she knew it. What makes or made you an outsider in regards to your relationship with Christ? If you are a believer, is there anything that currently still makes you feel separated from Christ?

The truth is, we all begin as outsiders. We have all sinned and are unworthy to receive anything from the infinitely holy God. What insight does this passage give us into how Christ approaches outsiders?

What is typically your approach when asking for something in prayer? Do you tend to see blessing from the Father as your right as a child of God or do you approach in humility, knowing that anything you receive is because of grace alone?

What is typically your response when you don't get the answer to prayer you were hoping for? What does your usual response reveal about your heart regarding your perceived position in relation to Christ?

Take some time to reflect on your approach to Christ as an outsider. Where does your approach to Christ need to change? Ask for the Holy Spirit to realign your perspective on your position and to constantly remind you of the amazing grace that allows outsiders to join in table fellowship with Christ.

3) REVIEW THE MISSION

Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit we have been sent as missionaries in everyday life to display God's glory and lead others to repentance and faith through belief in the gospel. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

People:

Who can be intentionally living on mission amidst our current situation? (neighbors, coworkers, or a specific demographic in Columbia)

Plan:

Who is one person you can share the gospel with this week? How can that be done under the current constraints? Spend some time praying for these opportunities.

How can we be intentional in times like this about sharing the gospel?

Pray:

Pray for God to help us love him above all else that we may join him boldly in his mission to redeem the world. Pray for those around us that we need to share this with or invite in.