

Third Week of January

Unyielding Faith

- **Text:** Mark 7:24~30 (January 20)
- **Point:** Jesus noticed the Gentile woman's faith and granted her wish.

≡ 1. Praise

(Hymn 95) O Thou, in Whose Presence

≡ 2. Prayer

We rejoice and praise God. As our family worships with one heart, please pour out your grace on us so that we can deeply encounter You.

≡ 3. The Word

Read Mark 7:24~30 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the passage.

<English Standard Version>

24 And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon.[g] And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. 25 But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. 26 Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." 28 But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." 29 And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." 30 And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

<New American Standard Bible>

24 Now Jesus got up and went from there to the region of Tyre[m]. And when He had entered a house, He wanted no one to know about it; and yet He could not escape notice. 25 But after hearing about Him, a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately came and fell at His feet. 26 Now the woman was a [n]Gentile, of Syrophenician descent. And she repeatedly asked Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 And He was saying to her, "Let the children be satisfied first, for it is not [o]good to take the children's bread and throw it to the [p]dogs." 28 But she answered and *said to Him, "Yes, Lord, but even the dogs under the table feed on the children's crumbs." 29 And He said to her, "Because of this [q]answer, go; the demon has gone out of your daughter." 30 And after going back to her home, she found the child [r]lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<Word Explanation>

* Supplication: Earnestly wishing for a wish or request to be granted.

Understanding Text

Jesus met a Syrophenician woman. She pleaded with Jesus to heal her demon-possessed daughter. Even when she felt rejected, she didn't give up and kept asking. Jesus acknowledged the woman's faith and healed her demon-possessed daughter.

☒ Understanding the text for leaders

Jesus hid himself in a house in the area of Tyre and Sidon. But word of Jesus' coming spread quickly, and people came from all over the place. Among the many people, the text focuses on a Greek Syrophenician woman. Because the area was called Canaan, the Gospel of Matthew refers to this woman as the "Canaanite woman" (Mt 15:21~22). Jesus notices the woman's state of faith. In a conversation with the religious leaders, Jesus said that uncleanness is not in food or any external condition, but in man's sinful nature. The Israelites were so proud and conceited that they were just the chosen people and did not live according to God's word. They looked down on other people who were not chosen. Jesus spoke with the woman to show that even the Gentiles, whom the Jews considered unclean and looked down on as "dogs," had a remarkable faith that the Israelites did not have. Despite Jesus' insulting response to the Gentile woman, the woman did not give up and went to Jesus, believing that Jesus could heal her demon-possessed daughter. Eventually, Jesus took notice of her faith and healed her demon-possessed daughter. It shows that God's grace, which seemed to be granted only to Jews, is also coming to Gentiles, who were considered unclean.

21 And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." (Mt 15:21~22).

4. Sharing

1) When Jesus seemed to refuse to heal his demon-possessed daughter with the parable of a dog, how did the woman respond? (Verse 28).

■ Upper Grades

What did the woman say when Jesus refused to heal her? (verse 28).

■ Lower Grades

What did the woman say when Jesus didn't heal her sick daughter right away? (verse 28).

☒ Question Guide

Even though she heard the word of refusal, she did not give up her faith in Jesus because she was convinced that only Jesus could heal her demon-possessed daughter. When we confess that Jesus is our only Savior and Healer, we need to remember that we can respond in faith, as this woman did.

☒ Comments for Leaders

Jesus intentionally rejected Gentile women by comparing them to "dogs," a derogatory term used by Jews for Gentiles. But she didn't give up, as she had a fervent belief "as long as I meet Jesus." On the contrary, she accepted the perception that Gentiles were "dogs" and clung to Jesus even more earnestly, saying that dogs eat crumbs that fall off the table. When Jesus saw her faith, He healed her demon-possessed daughter. This incident teaches us that saving faith is not only available to Jews, but also to all who yearn for it with a fervent heart. Also, the earnest attitude of the woman who asked Jesus for grace without giving up tells us that we should pray without giving up.

2) What should we pray earnestly in faith to the Lord without giving up?

■ **Upper Grades**

What are my prayer requests these days? Share when, where, and how you will pray.

■ **Lower Grades**

What would you like to pray to God before you go to sleep tonight?

☒ **Question Guide**

Like the woman who asked Jesus for help until the end, we share our family's prayer requests and pray together.

☒ **Comments for Leaders**

When we pray, we can feel God's presence with us. This is a grace that can only be enjoyed by those who pray. In an age where money solves everything and information is quickly obtained through the Internet, 'prayer' seems to be becoming more and more useless and old-fashioned. But God still wants to show Himself through our prayers. As we share our family's prayer requests and encourage each other to pray steadily and without giving up, we will experience God with our family abundantly.

☰ **5. Be grateful**

Remember and be grateful for God's answers to your prayers or those of your family.

☰ **6. Prayer**

Lord, forgive us for giving up praying because our prayers have gone unanswered. May we pray with perseverance and fervency, like the Syrophenician woman, and give us hope and expectation for your answers and help.

- End the family worship service with the "The Lord's Prayer"

☰ **7. Family Mission**

<Our House of Prayer> *What to bring: Whiteboard, memo board, board pen, or magic pen

1. Share family prayer requests and write them on the whiteboard.
2. Set aside a time to pray for your family once a week, and write it down on the whiteboard.
3. We meet at a set time to pray together for our families.

Write down your prayer request and prayer time so that everyone in your family can recognize it, and then gather at the appointed time to pray together. If you find it difficult to pray together, encourage each person to pray at the appointed time and in the place of their choice. Sharing how your prayers were answered afterwards will motivate you even more. Even if your prayers are not answered, confess the goodness of God who will answer you with something better.