

- I. **Introduction** – in the text before us, we see a woman who is persistent in her pursuit of Christ. She wants salvation for her child and she pushes Jesus for that salvation.

- II. **Christ is not Hidden (v. 24)** – Jesus leaves the land of His people and travels in to Tyre and Sidon. This would be a place of Gentiles, a place Jews would avoid. To the Jewish people these regions and these people were unclean. This should be a place where He can get some rest. However, there is no rest to be found. There is no place He can go at this point in His ministry and now be recognized.
 - a. He is not hidden. Though it seems as if things are not going the way we would like or even the way we think He would like, He is not hidden. He is the bright light that has come into the world. He will not be hidden from it.

24 And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden.

- III. **Christ draws in unlikely followers (vv. 25-26)** – because He is not hidden, He draws people unto Himself. Thus far we have mostly encountered Jewish people who have come to Christ. No doubt some has expectations of Him to be their long-awaited Messiah. However, He is now among many pagan people who have no frame of reference when it comes to Jesus. They are not looking for a Messiah. They are comfortable with their false idol worship. However, Jesus attracts unlikely followers. From the religious people that ultimately followed Him, to the fishermen that became His disciples. This time it is no different. This woman was a Gentile. A pagan. Part of the people who were often the enemies of God. But she comes to Jesus anyway.

- a. We need to remember that Jesus draws unlikely followers. We often dismiss people believing that they would have nothing to do with the things of God. Jesus calls many who are unlikely. In fact, we could rightly say that all of those that He calls to Himself are unlikely because each one called to Christ is a sinner far from God.

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.

IV. Christ does not lose focus of His mission (v. 27) – these words may seem very harsh coming from Christ. I am sure there have been many who have tried to soften them up at various points in history. To be honest, I am not sure how harsh it sounded. The disciples obviously did not want her there. We know that from Matthew's account of this incident. But was Jesus just being mean, calling her a dog? I would say no. Jesus' clear mission was to the people of Israel. They were the one promised a Messiah. It was through their people that all the nations would be blessed. The people Jesus was ministering to would have loved someone who could do what Jesus was doing to be their own savior. If this was a dog and pony show, they would have loved to see Jesus' tricks. That, however, was not His mission.

- a. Do not lose focus of our mission. There are endless things that we can do that would be good and right, but they may not be a part of our mission. There are things we may be good at that could contribute, but they are not our mission. When we fail to focus on our mission, we cease to be what God has called us to be: a church on mission for the Kingdom of God.

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."

V. Christ responds to unyielding faith (vv. 28-30) – She does not give up. This is too important and she knows that Christ can help. She turns Jesus question back to Him. This is something I know He anticipates. Even the little dogs can eat the scraps at the table. She would be satisfied with this. The Jews may understand the Gentiles to be dogs, but if so, she would like the things that fall off the table to the dogs. Her faith in unyielding. She will not be deterred. And for that, Jesus rewards her. Her daughter is healed.

a. Our faith must not give up. We cannot give in to every hardship and trial. Life is hard. Sin is pervasive and corrupts completely. However, faith is a great gift from God. We cannot abandon it. When God seems slow to answer or act, we can be tempted to give up and place our faith somewhere else. However, Christ responds to unyielding faith.

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.

VI. Challenge – would we have faith like this woman? Do we pursue Jesus with the passion that He pursues us? Is our faith easily shaken or is it unyielding. Though Jesus' words may seem harsh, He always refused to stray from the mission the Father sent Him on. The message of God had not yet come to the Gentiles. The Father had sent His Son to the chosen people. However, among the dogs, Jesus meets a woman of unyielding faith.