

Matthew 15:21-28

Opening Remarks

- Hold loosely what you know or think you know about this passage. Read it as if it were the first time.
- Look for repeated words, intense words or unexpected words.
- Spend a lot of time examining the text before you look for the meaning.

Recognize—narrative

Examine

Some words to notice

"Canaanite" "implored" "your faith is great"
"keeps shouting"

Some surprising words

"I was sent only" "Send her away." "It is not good"

Q: For whom did the woman plead for mercy? What was Jesus' response?

Analyze

- ✓ If you had been in the scene, would it have seemed at that moment that Jesus wanted to talk to the woman?
- ✓ In Jesus' answer to His followers, does it seem that Jesus wanted to help the woman? Yet what did He not do?
- ✓ Put Jesus' answer to them in your words. What question might you have had for Him at that moment?
- ✓ Restate Jesus' reply to the woman in your words.
- ✓ Did the woman agree? Restate her reply in your words to catch her meaning.
- ✓ What did Jesus find great about the woman's faith? What title would you give this passage?
- ✓ Did Jesus want to cast the demon out of the woman's daughter all along? What did He do for the woman herself?

Decide

- ✓ What insight do you get here from Matthew about how Jesus likes to meet needs? Before thinking of what to do in response, take time to ponder and enjoy what you have noticed about Jesus.
- ✓ Does it ever seem that Jesus is not paying attention or does not care about your needs? Maybe something else is going on. Maybe Jesus wants to do something good inside of you while meeting a need.