

## **“Love and Loyalty”**

**Mount of Olives | May 10, 2026 | Matthew 15:21-28**

**Pastor John Steward**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Heavenly Father, thank You for this day in which we can celebrate our mothers and the influence they have had on our lives. For many of us, the faithfulness of our mothers is the greatest influence on our character. For those who lacked that faithful presence of a mother, we ask that You would draw them close to You and assure them that Your ever-loving faithfulness to all of us is sufficient in all circumstances. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **Matthew 15:21-28**

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."

He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

### **Message Notes**

Jeremiah 31:29

In those days they shall no longer say: "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge."

Matthew 15:21-28

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Psalms 100:5

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Lamentations 3:22-23

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

### **Study Questions – Read Matthew 15:21-28**

**ICEBREAKER** – Getting started:

1. Since we are celebrating Mother's Day this weekend, what is your favorite memory of your mother?
2. Have you ever had to ask for something more than once before finally getting a "yes"?
3. What is one challenge in life that taught you persistence?
4. If you could instantly become really good at one skill, what would it be and why?
5. What is something you once thought was impossible but eventually accomplished?

Based on Matthew 15:21-28, answer the following questions:

**OBSERVATION** – What does the text say?

1. As you read Matthew 15:21-28, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

**INTERPRETATION** – What does the text mean?

1. Where was Jesus when this encounter with the Canaanite woman took place?
2. What problem did the woman bring to Jesus?
3. What title did the woman use when speaking to Jesus, and why is that significant?
4. How did Jesus initially respond to the woman?
5. How did the disciples react to the woman's cries for help?
6. What did Jesus mean when He said He was sent "to the lost sheep of Israel"?
7. How did the woman respond after Jesus' difficult statement about the children's bread and the dogs?
8. What does the woman's response reveal about her faith and humility?
9. Why do you think Jesus publicly interacted with her in this way instead of healing immediately?
10. What did Jesus ultimately say about the woman's faith, and what happened to her daughter?

**APPLICATION** – How can you apply the text?

1. What can we learn from the woman's persistence in prayer?
2. How do you usually respond when God seems silent or slow to answer?
3. In what ways can humility strengthen our relationship with God?
4. Are there areas in your life where you need to trust Jesus more deeply despite obstacles or discouragement?
5. How can this story encourage us to bring impossible situations to Jesus?
6. What does this passage teach us about God's grace reaching beyond cultural or social boundaries?
7. How can you demonstrate persistent faith this week in a practical way?