



Crumbs of Mercy, Mountains of Faith

A Five-Day Devotional

August 17 - August 21, 2026

Faith does not always look like certainty. Sometimes it looks like coming to Jesus with a need we cannot fix, continuing to pray when heaven seems silent, admitting when we have fallen short, or standing faithfully when the world around us is moving in another direction.

This week, we will walk with the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15, whose faith was persistent, humble, and courageous. She came to Jesus believing that even a crumb of His mercy was enough. Her story reminds us that God's mercy is never scarce and that genuine faith keeps moving toward Christ.

What made this past Sunday especially meaningful was seeing our young people put that faith into action. On Youth Sunday, our young members led worship at both services, and Weston Roddle, a senior at Mid-Carolina High School, shared the message. Their leadership was itself a testimony: faith is not something we postpone until we are older. God can use young people to lead, serve, worship, speak, and point others toward Jesus right now.

As we reflect this week, may we learn from the Canaanite woman's persistent faith—and from the example of our young people—that even what seems small in our hands can become something powerful when placed in God's hands.

Monday, August 17

Come To Jesus

“Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed.” —
Matthew 15:22, ESV

The Canaanite woman came to Jesus carrying a need she could not fix. Her daughter was suffering, and she had reached the end of herself. She was also an outsider in nearly every visible way. Yet instead of allowing shame, labels, or circumstances to keep her away, she ran toward Jesus.

That first movement is important. Faith often begins before we have answers. Many people believe they must clean themselves up before they can pray honestly, but this woman did the opposite. She came with the real need, the real fear, and the real desperation. She believed mercy could be found in Jesus.

Youth Sunday gave us a beautiful picture of what it looks like to come forward in faith. Our young people didn't wait until they had decades of experience to worship, lead, or serve. They stepped forward with what God had already given them. Weston, as a high-school senior, stood before the congregation and proclaimed God's Word. Their example reminds us that God can use anyone who is willing to come to Him.

You don't have to wait until you feel ready. Bring Jesus what you have today. Your faith may feel small, your questions unfinished, or your circumstances overwhelming. Come anyway. The first step of faith is often simply turning toward Christ.

Reflection

What need, fear, or struggle have you been trying to manage yourself that Jesus is inviting you to bring honestly to Him?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help me come to You honestly, just as I am. Remove the shame and fear that keep me away, and give me the courage to trust Your mercy. Amen.

Tuesday, August 18

Faith When Heaven Is Quiet

“But he did not answer her a word.” — Matthew 15:23, ESV

The woman's first experience with Jesus was silence. She cried out, and there was no immediate answer. That moment can feel painfully familiar. We pray, but nothing seems to change. We seek God, but we don't feel His presence. We wonder whether our prayers are reaching heaven at all.

But silence is not necessarily rejection. The Canaanite woman did not allow Jesus' silence to convince her that He was not worth pursuing. She kept coming. Her faith was not based on getting an immediate response; it was based on who she believed Jesus to be.

This is one of the hardest lessons of discipleship. We naturally want faith to produce quick answers. Yet sometimes God forms something deeper in us while we wait. Persistent prayer teaches us to trust God's character even when we cannot yet see His plan.

Our young people also remind us that faith grows through practice. They didn't simply show up on Youth Sunday with faith fully formed. They have been learning, worshiping, asking questions, serving, and growing. Faith is developed through repeated turning toward Jesus—even when we don't have all the answers.

If God seems quiet today, keep praying. Keep opening Scripture. Keep worshiping. Keep coming back to Jesus. The silence does not mean He has forgotten you.

Reflection

Where have you experienced God's silence, and what would it look like to keep trusting His character even before you see an answer?

Prayer

Father, when You seem quiet, keep me from assuming You are absent. Give me patience to keep praying and faith to trust You while I wait. Amen.

Wednesday, August 19

Crumbs Are Enough

"Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." — Matthew 15:27, ESV

Jesus' words seem difficult, but the woman's response reveals the remarkable posture of her heart. She does not argue her worthiness or demand that Jesus give her what she believes she deserves. Instead, she humbly trusts that even the smallest expression of His mercy is enough.

This is where faith becomes both bold and humble. She is bold enough to stay near Jesus and humble enough to admit that she needs mercy. She doesn't try to negotiate her way into God's favor. She simply believes that Jesus is merciful.

The theme from Youth Sunday—Crumbs of Mercy, Mountains of Faith—captures this beautifully. The woman believed that even crumbs from Jesus' table were more than enough. Her circumstances looked like a mountain, but her faith rested on the character of Christ. Sometimes we stare at the size of our problems and forget the greatness of the One we are asking to help us.

Repentance has this same posture. We don't come to God pretending we have earned His grace. We come honestly, confessing our sin and trusting His mercy. God's grace is not something we deserve; it is something He freely gives.

Today, don't measure God's mercy by the size of your need. Bring Him the need anyway. What feels like a crumb to you may become part of a testimony far greater than you can see.

Reflection

Where do you need to stop defending yourself and simply receive God's mercy with humility and trust?

Prayer

Lord, I know I need Your mercy. Help me come without excuses or pride, trusting that Your grace is greater than my failures and my fears. Amen.

Thursday, August 20

Great Faith Keeps Coming

"O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." — Matthew 15:28, ESV

Jesus ultimately praises the woman's faith. Her faith wasn't great because she performed perfectly or understood everything. It was great because she kept coming to Christ with humility and persistence. She trusted His heart even when the answer did not come immediately.

That gives us a different picture of what "great faith" looks like. Great faith isn't always dramatic. Sometimes it is getting up and praying again. Sometimes it is choosing forgiveness. Sometimes it is opening Scripture when you don't feel like it, showing up for worship when life is difficult, or continuing to believe when circumstances haven't changed.

Youth Sunday gave us another beautiful picture of this kind of faith. Our young members stood before the congregation and led worship—not because they have everything figured out, but because they are learning to trust Jesus and use what God has placed in them. Weston shared God's Word as a senior in high school, reminding us that God doesn't require someone to reach a certain age before He can use their voice.

The lesson is for all of us: don't underestimate what God can do through a willing heart. A young person's faith can inspire an older believer. An older believer's faith can strengthen a young person. The church becomes stronger when every generation encourages the others to keep coming to Jesus.

Reflection

What would "great faith" look like in your ordinary life this week—not as a dramatic moment, but as one small act of continued trust?

Prayer

Jesus, give me a faith that keeps coming back to You. Help me trust You in ordinary moments and encourage others, especially the next generation, to do the same. Amen.

Friday, August 21

Faithful When the World Pulls Back

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." — Romans 12:2, ESV

The Canaanite woman was willing to step outside her culture's expectations to pursue Jesus. Her story reminds us that following Christ will sometimes put us at odds with the world around us. There will be moments when obedience is unpopular, when faith is misunderstood, or when the easiest choice is not the faithful one.

Paul calls believers not to be conformed to the patterns around them but to be transformed through renewed minds. Radical living for Christ isn't about looking superior or proving that we are better than anyone else. It is about allowing Jesus to shape what we value, how we speak, what we pursue, and how we treat people.

This is especially important for our young people. The world will constantly tell them who they should be, what they should value, and what will make them accepted. Youth Sunday reminded us that the church has an important responsibility: not simply to tell young people what not to do, but to show them the beauty of a life centered on Jesus. We need to encourage them, listen to them, pray for them, and give them opportunities to lead.

But the challenge belongs to every generation. Whether we are young, middle-aged, or enjoying our later years, we are all called to keep choosing Christ. Our faithfulness becomes part of the testimony we leave for those coming behind us.

The Canaanite woman came looking for crumbs and discovered the abundance of God's mercy. She faced barriers but kept coming. She was an outsider but found grace. Her faith looked small in the eyes of the world, yet Jesus called it great.

Perhaps that is the invitation for us this week: bring your crumbs of faith to Jesus and trust Him to build mountains of faith through them.

Reflection

Where is God calling you to live more faithfully for Christ, even if doing so means going against the expectations or values around you?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, renew my mind and strengthen my faith. Help me stand faithfully when the world pulls me in another direction. Give me courage to follow You and wisdom to encourage those coming behind me. Amen.

Thank you for spending your week with us. Sunday's Coming!