

The Power of a Praying Mom Mt 15

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Mother's Day May 14th

In Mt 14 Jesus feeds the multitudes (vs 13-21); Walks through the storm to the Disciples (vs 22-33); and healed all who would come to him. (Vs 34-36). In Mt 15 Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for their hypocrisy in honoring their traditions above God's commandments (Vs 1-9), specifically focusing on how they rationalized breaking God's 5th commandment to *"Honor thy Father and Mother"* (Ex. 20:12)

Mt 15:9 *"in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."*

He then applies this to the importance of a clean heart.

Then Jesus took a detour North into Sidon. (Lebanon) The only Biblical account of this trip concerns a desperate but devoted Canaanite mother who, against all odds confronted Jesus! Vs 21-28

In this unusual story we see the Marks of a Great Mom and how they moved Jesus to defy convention and bring deliverance to her daughter.

1. Great Moms overcome Great Barriers

- **Inadequacy:** She couldn't "fix" her daughter.
- **Inferiority:** She was a Canaanite Woman bowing before Jewish men.
- **Uncertainty:** Would Jesus reject her?

2. Great Moms are empowered by Great love.

Her love was more powerful than her:

- **Shame:** Remember the women in Mt 9:20-21
- **Doubt:** Mk 9:23 *"...help thou mine unbelief"*
- **Fear:** 1 Jn 4:18 *"perfect love casts out fear"*

3. Great Moms are armed with Great Determination, even in the face of:

- **Initial silence.** Vs 23 *"Jesus answered her not..."*
- **Disciple's rejection.** 24 *"Send her away!"*
- **Jesus' explanation.** Vs 25 *"sent to ... Israel...not meet to give children's bread to the dogs"*

4. Great Moms acknowledge their Great need!

- She recognized she wasn't worthy! Vs 27 *"Truth, Lord: ..."*
- She asked only for mercy and grace. *"... yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."*

5. Great Moms know the power of Prayer!

- Acknowledged the Lordship of Jesus. 22 *"have mercy ...O Lord, thou Son of David"*
- Acknowledged her need and His ability. 25 *"Lord help me"*

Song: "Where could I go but to the Lord?"

6. Great Moms triumph with great faith! 28 *"O woman, great is thy faith! be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour."*

Conclusion:

Jesus' detour took him to a desperate, but devoted mother; who exercised more faith than most of the educated "faithful" Israelites; And received a Great Blessing from Jesus!

Such Great Faith was true of another "Gentile" mother.

Luke 4:25-26 *"many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, (Elijah)... But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow."*

Application:

What Great Barriers are in your way?

What Great Love motivates your prayers?

What Great Determination enables your drive?

What Great Need overwhelms you?

Will you allow these to keep you from, Or drive you to Jesus in

***"effectual, fervent (energeo) prayer?"* James 5:16**

"Lord, who am I to teach the way, To my children, day by day,

So prone myself, to go astray.

I teach them knowledge, but I know, How faint they flicker and how low,



The candles of my knowledge glows.

I teach them power to will and do,

But only now to learn anew

My own great weakness through and through.

Lord if their guide I still must be,

Oh, let my precious children see.

Their mother leaning hard on thee!"