

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 (energeio) 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!”