

WORSHIP for August 16, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Following zoom worship on 8/23 will be a time of processing our grief through sharing accounts of the manner in which Mat Mauger and Faye Hammond in their own character and actions bore witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Bring accounts to share or contact Pastor Janet who will share them.
- 2) To watch sermons recorded on Zoom on our YouTube Channel, go to the FPCP website: <https://www.fpcpataskala.com/> and click on WORSHIP or follow us on Facebook from the homepage.
- 3) Please invite family or friends, who want to join us for live worship on Sundays @10:45am, to request access by emailing their name, email, & phone number to janetann386@gmail.com
- 4) Session is deferring any decision to return to worship in the church building until at least the September 10th session meeting. Thank you for your patience. Please stay in prayer.
- 5) If you need a COVID-19 cloth mask call 740-901-1232 for the Johnsons, who lead the CRT. Thank you to Gage Marcum and Katie Slaymaker, who have been making masks available.
- 6) Please contact Pastor Janet, if you have any interest in participating in a new Bible basics study on zoom. The current Wednesday night class for adults is going well, and will continue.
- 7) Please Remember to Send in Your Giving in Dedication to Our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Also active members please consider contributing \$37.75 towards annual per capita.

Prelude played by Laura Keesor, “Prelude in C Major” *public domain; JS Bach*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y47bgv14yJQ&list=PLAdy2hvW6PL8_1itXDbTRrCel331DmVVU&index=13&t=0s

Call to Worship: Psalm 130:5-6 *Responsively*

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

**I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

Opening Hymn: “I Need Thee Every Hour”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqYXTK4JYz8>

Prayer of Confession: Psalm 130:1-3 *Unison*

Lord, we are an impatient people. We act ahead of you. We speak over you. We think thoughts outside your thoughts. "Out of the depths I cry to you Lord; Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?" Amen. *(Pause for a time of silent confession.)*

Assurance of Forgiveness: Psalm 130:4 *Responsively*

"But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can with reverence, serve you." We believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

"The Gloria Patri"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgcYD_m4OhU

Hymn of Preparation: "Be Still My Soul"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPDPUoxylP4>

Call to God's Word: *Unison*

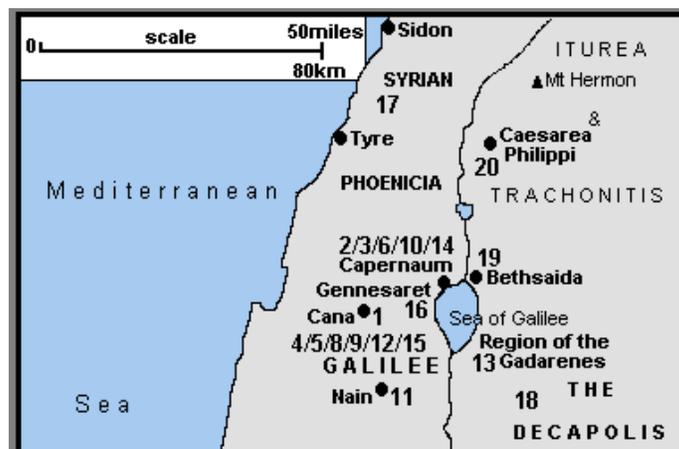
"Scripture cannot be set aside... What does Scripture say?" John 10:35 & Romans 4:3.

Prayer for Illumination: *Unison*

Lord, through your Spirit enable us to consider your Word, and to enact it in our lives to bring you glory and praise. Amen.

Gospel Readings: Matthew 15:21-28 (NIV)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2015:21-28&version=NIV>



SERMON: "Faith of a Gentile Woman" by *The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford*

Watch sermon on: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAdy2hvW6PL93B6hbgswTxf93Evs575yd>

Today's account of the woman from the region of Tyre & Sidon is another example to us and to the disciples of how carrying on the ministry to advance the Kingdom of God requires faith, such as Jesus demonstrated following the death of John the Baptist at the feeding of the 5000 & 4000. Jesus had already begun to stress the necessity of faith in episodes of demonstrating the kingdom coming on earth as in heaven in healings. For example, in Mt 8 he commends the faith of the centurion whose servant was healed and in

Mt 9 at healings of the woman who had an issue of bleeding and the man who was blind and mute. Lack of faith is also cited as an issue for the disciples in the storm of Mt 8 and for Peter walking on the water in Mt 14. But now in Mt 15 the faith of a Gentile woman who seeks healing for her daughter is showcased by Jesus for the sake of continuing to teach the disciples how to advance the Kingdom of God after his soon to be death and departure.

Speaking of learning how to carry on ministry, today's passage was my first assignment in my seminary homelitics class, where students learn the art of crafting sermons. What a challenging passage to preach, as we shall see. To make matters worse, Cs were rumored to be the best grade to expect, but I had to get As to keep my scholarship. Further, we were required to pick up our sermon drafts from the mailboxes right across from the professor's office! I was shaking. I hoped that the professor wasn't in her office. But there she was. Timidly, I pulled my sermon outline out of the mailbox. It was folded in half, so I couldn't immediately see my grade. I quietly unfolded my paper, so as not to be heard. I expected to see it covered with red circles and corrections, but there was only one phrase at the top. It simply said, "A Preacher" followed by multiple exclamation points. I was so excited I ran to the professor who was smiling ear to ear, as I squealed, "Really? Really?" The reason that I share this experience is that it may well exemplify the strong emotions of the woman in the passage.

Let's begin by noting the manner in which the woman approaches Jesus. V. 22, "A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, 'Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.'" Imagine her humble approach, speaking in the Hebrew expressions of Lord & Son of David, though a Gentile woman.

Yet in response to her cry, in v. 23, "Jesus did not answer a word." How odd, since Jesus moves in compassion for people who need help. Jesus healed demon-possessed men in the region of the Gadarenes, where pagan lived & pigs were raised! So why won't Jesus speak to this poor woman, whose daughter is demon-possessed & suffering. His lack of compassion seems out of character & even cruel. But perhaps Jesus' immediate lack of response is to give the disciples an opportunity to minister to the women, like when he said to the disciples in Bethsaida, "You give them something to eat."

But in v. 23, "So his disciples came to him & urged him, 'Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.'" The disciples whine about the woman crying out in pain. They don't care about her & her daughter. They just want Jesus to sent her away. This treatment of the woman is nearly unbearable.

Then it gets worse. In v. 24, Jesus "answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.'" But the woman won't give up for her daughter. In v. 25, "The woman came and knelt before him and said, 'Lord, help me!'"

Then it gets worse. With the distraught woman begging at his feet, in v. 26, Jesus replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." Do we hear right? Does Jesus insinuate that his helping this woman & her daughter is like tossing away food to dogs?! This isn't like Jesus whom we know.

Why is Jesus talking to her this way, especially when at the start of his ministry Jesus offers a positive account of a widow helped by Elijah in the region of Sidon? Hear Luke 4:26: “Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon.” Perhaps the woman is aware of Jesus’ early referral to the widow in Zarephath. Perhaps she has also heard how the disciples picked up 12 basketfuls of broken pieces [crumbs] left over at the feeding of the 5,000, since news of the miracle traveled. Remember how when Jesus & the disciples crossed over to Gennesaret, the men sent word to all the surrounding country, likely reaching as far as Tyre & Sidon, where this woman & her daughter live.

The woman answers to Jesus & perseveres in her request for Jesus to heal her daughter with extraordinary wisdom. In v. 27 she said, “Yes, Lord, it is.” *That is, “Yes it is right to take the children’s bread & toss it to the pet dogs.” She continues,* “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” Crumbs like from the feeding of the 5000?

When Jesus’ disciples do not act in faith at the opportunity to do so, Jesus raises the woman as an example of faith above them. In v. 28 “Then Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.’ And her daughter was healed at that moment.”

No wonder after Jesus’ encounter with this persistent woman, he then feeds over 4,000, with again basketfuls of crumbs leftover. Yet the disciples were slow in learning and still lack faith. They wonder in v. 33, “Where could we get enough bread in this remote place to feed such a crowd?” Then again after the feeding of the 4000, in 16:7-10 “They discussed this among themselves and said, ‘It is because we didn’t bring any bread?’ Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, ‘You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? Don’t you remember the 5 loaves for the 5000, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or the 7 loaves for the 4000, and many basketfuls you gathered? How is it you don’t understand that I was not talking to you about bread?’” Jesus was with the 12 disciples for over 3 years, yet their faith & understanding was slow in coming. May it may not be so with us.

Let us pray instead for our faith to be great, like that of the unnamed woman who had such a strong influence on Jesus’ late ministry! That our faith, too, is talked about for years to come. Let us pray that we are quick to learn from the woman. Let us pray that in the power of the Holy Spirit we are generously given in grace the gift of faith. Help us, Jesus. Grow our faith, and help us to persevere! Help us to be like this unnamed woman of faith, a great example of faith for years to come. Last Founder’s day, we heard our now dearly departed Mat Mauger sing, “May all who come behind us find us faithful.” Jesus enable faith as great as that of the woman in today’s passage to be with the congregation of FPCP. Amen!

Hymn of Response: “God Will Take Care of You”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijytLs96yig>

PRAYERS OF JOYS & CONCERNS, FOLLOWED BY THE LORD'S PRAYER: *Unison*

Send requests to Pastor Janet's email janetann386@gmail.com or call or text 412-877-8310.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Please Continue to Give in Dedication to Our Lord and Savior, Jesus

Prayer of Dedication: *Unison*

God, in view of your mercy help us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to you, O God. Amen. *Romans 12:1*

Doxology

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqpXWF15avU>

Closing Hymn: "Amazing Grace"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=di9HZMlcVCU>

Benediction: *Responsively*

With faith go forth to serve the Lord, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

TABLE TALK

Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted."
Matthew 15:21-28

When has Jesus answered for you or for another a prayer of great faith?