

“Yes, Lord!”

INTRODUCTION

Mark 7:24-30 is the story of the Syro-Phoenician woman. The New King James Version of the text reads as follows:

²⁴ From there [Christ] arose and went to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And He entered a house and wanted no one to know it, but He could not be hidden. ²⁵For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet. ²⁶The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷But Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." ²⁸And she answered and said to Him, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then He said to her, "For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter." ³⁰And when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed.

Our teaching time, taken from verse 28, is entitled: “Yes, Lord.” Saying “Yes!” to the Lord is the key to faith. The Syro-Phoenician woman said, “Yes!” to the Lord and received the miracle that she needed from him.

BACKGROUND OF STORY

The Syro-Phoenician woman was the victim of two types of discrimination. First, as a woman, she would have been denied many of the privileges that men enjoyed. Secondly, as a Gentile from a pagan land, she was not a member of God’s chosen nation of Israel. God had made no covenant with her people, so she had no legal right to ask the Lord for anything. The Syro-Phoenician woman may not have had impressive credentials, but she had impressive faith. The pureness of her heart and the greatness of her faith moved God to manifest himself in her situation.

FAITH: A DEFINITION

Genuine Christian faith is an unwavering trust in and dependence on God that flows from an intimate relationship with him. Faith properly understood is primarily a matter of allegiance to God. We often think that faith is a belief for God to do something; however, faith is more than a belief that God will do what we ask. Faith is a confident, unwavering trust in God himself. Our faith rests on the nature and character of God. Faith enables us to rest in God despite the circumstances. Because of the Lord’s faithfulness, we can completely put our trust in him. One important aspect of faith is that faith sees the answer as already accomplished in Christ. Because God is so trustworthy, your needs are already met before you ask for them. Simply trust the Lord and you will see greater victory in your life.

“Yes, Lord!”

MAIN POINTS OF THE TEACHING

The story of the Syro-Phoenician woman teaches us several lessons about faith.

POINT 1: FAITH REQUIRES THE HUMBLE REALIZATION OF OUR NEED

Before we can look for answers or receive help, we must first realize that we need help. The Syro-Phoenician woman knew that only the Lord could help her.

POINT 2: FAITH REQUIRES HEARING

Hearing and faith are inseparable partners.

Romans 10:17--“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

The things that the Syro-Phoenician woman heard strengthened her faith and convinced her of the tremendous power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

POINT 3: FAITH REQUIRES PERSISTANCE

The Syro-Phoenician woman had a persistent attitude. Sometimes we need to press into our miracle and refuse to be denied.

Hebrews 11:6--“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he [or she] who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

POINT 4: THE OBJECT OF FAITH IS JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ Himself is central to any profession of faith. The Syro-Phoenician woman said “Yes, Lord.” Her words were a legitimate acknowledgement of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Persistence is very important, but persistence BY itself is not enough. Genuine faith requires abandonment to the Lord. We place our lives into His hands and we allow Him to bless us as only he can do. What made the woman’s petition so effective was her surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION

Regardless of what you may be facing today, it is time for you to say, “Yes, Lord.” No matter how severe your trial or how intense your situation, you must surrender to the Lord and say, “Yes!” to Him. “Yes” to your will! “Yes” to your way! “Yes” to your call! “Yes” to your timing. “Lord, I say ‘Yes’ to you!” Faith in Christ requires us to yield to Him. The Syro-Phoenician woman yielded to the Lord and received the victory that she needed. We can indeed learn from her example. Like this great woman of faith, if we will surrender ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ then we too can receive the victory that we need. Say “Yes!” to the Lord today!