

## JESUS BLESSES THE FAITH OF A CANAANITE WOMAN

Matthew 15:21-39

Key Verse: 15:28

1. Read verses 21-22. After a confrontation with the Pharisees, to where did Jesus withdraw? Who came to him with a terrible problem? What did she believe about Jesus? What did she want?
2. Read verses 23-24. How did Jesus respond to this woman's crying out? What did his disciples urge him to do? How did Jesus answer them? What does this reveal about the mission of the Messiah? About God's ways of working?
3. Read verses 25-26. How did the woman respond to Jesus' seeming refusal (24-25) to help her? What was Jesus' answer? (26) What did he mean by this?
4. Read verses 27-28. What was her response and what did it mean? What did Jesus do? (28) Why did he say that her faith was great?
5. Read verses 29-31. Where did Jesus go from there? Describe the crowds and his ministry to them. How did the people respond? What suggests that the people to whom he ministered were Gentiles?
6. Read verses 32-39. Why did Jesus have compassion on the crowds? What did he want to do? What was the disciples' problem? What did Jesus ask them? What did Jesus do? How is this event similar to a previous event? Different? What was Jesus teaching his disciples?