

August 13&14, 2011 “Check Your Ego At The Door”

I love the story of the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15. This lady is a typical mom with a strong faith and a great desire to care for her daughter. I've always felt that there is a special bond between moms and children, grandmoms and grandchildren. I know that if you mess with my kids, you mess with me. If you mess with my grandkids, you mess with me. But, if you mess with Mrs. Matthews' kids or grandkids, she will be all over you like white on rice! That's our lady in today's lesson. Her daughter has a demon and she knows just where to go for healing; to Jesus. First she has to get His attention and that's not easy.

There is a story of a couple waking in the middle of the night as they saw lights and heard noise in their shed. They called the police, not police in our area, but were told there was no car available. They waited a minute and the wife called the police, identified herself as the one with burglars in the shed and told them not to hurry, her husband had shot them. Within minutes five police cars arrived and the burglars were captured. The officer asked them, “I thought you said you had shot them?” “We thought you said there were no cars available” Like the woman in our story, you have to get peoples attention.

This Canaanite lady came out of the crowd calling to Jesus. Jesus certainly heard but was testing her faith. She then knelt before Jesus pleading for a healing. Because Jews at that time thought of Canaanites as dogs, Jesus tugs her chain by saying the food for children shouldn't go to dogs. In faith she replied that even dogs deserve scraps. Our Lord was very impressed with her faith. Jesus told the lady, “Great is your faith.” I don't remember Jesus saying that about His disciples, do you?

In this story, we learn the importance of persistence in faith and prayer. We have a Savior Who loves us. He died for our sins, and wants to hear from us. The letters P.U.S.H. tell us to Pray Until Something Happens. As Scripture tells us, we ask, seek, and knock in prayer to our Lord, knowing He will always do what is best for us because God is Good. . .All The Time.

Humble faith reaching out to our Lord each day is what God wants from His children. We need Jesus; it's as simple as that! Humility tells Jesus that we know that to be true. Like the woman, we kneel before Him in faith.

The problem comes when our egos get in the way. We can do this, we can do that. Why should I ask God for help when I can handle it myself, our sinful nature asks. A number of years ago Quincy Jones got some big name talent together for a song “We Are The World.” This song raised some 63 million dollars for people in need here and abroad. Because there was so much talent like Michael Jackson, Bruce Springsteen, Willie Nelson, and others, it is said that Quincy put a sign over the door of the recording studio that said, “CHECK YOUR EGO AT THE DOOR.” This song would be a team effort with no “star.”

As we entered worship this weekend, you might have noticed the same sign over the door. Trusting in Jesus as Lord and Savior, knowing we need Him each and every day, we learn from the Canaanite woman that Jesus is always there to help us as we kneel in faith, but first, “check your ego at the door” . Amen. . .pastor matthews