

The Woman of Canaan

Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

What is prayer?

Why do people pray?

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

We pray You will send the Holy Spirit to us, so we will gladly hear and study Your Word. Help us as we learn to come to You in prayer and trust in You for everything. In Jesus' name. Amen.



The Story - Matthew 15:21-28

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. {22} And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

(Mark 7:26) The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

{23} But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

{24} But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." {25} Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

{26} But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

{27} And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

{28} Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Outer Aim

A Gentile woman persevered in seeking help from Jesus.



What the Story Tells Us - Match by writing the correct letter.

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|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. ____ Jesus traveled to | A. to pray even though Jesus didn't help. |
| 2. ____ A Gentile woman | B. possessed by a devil. |
| 3. ____ Her daughter was | C. the region of Tyre and Sidon. |
| 4. ____ The Gentile woman showed | D. came to Jesus for help. |
| 5. ____ At first Jesus | E. her faith in Jesus. |
| 6. ____ At first Jesus said | F. He came to help only Israel. |
| 7. ____ The woman continued | G. did not answer the woman. |
| 8. ____ Jesus said the woman | H. healed the daughter. |
| 9. ____ Then Jesus | I. over the devil and evil spirits. |
| 10. ____ Jesus showed his power | J. had great faith. |

Inner Aim

Our faith looks expectantly to God for all of our needs.

What God Tells Us - Fill in the blanks from the Word List.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. We should _____ for help in all our needs. | <div>Word List</div> <div>answer
forgiveness
eternal
pray
God
all
faith</div> |
| 2. God hears _____ our prayers. | |
| 3. Sometimes God does not _____ our prayers right away. | |
| 4. _____ wants us to keep on praying. | |
| 5. We need to ask God for _____ every day | |
| 6. Sometimes God sends us trials to strengthen our _____. | |
| 7. We know that God's best answer to our prayers is _____ life in faith. | |

Passages

Psalm 50:15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you,
and you shall glorify Me."

Matthew 11:28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will
give you rest.

Lamentations 3:22-23 Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.

Hymn - Hymn 457 v. 1, 2

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a Friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness —
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Your Turn - Use ideas from the story, the Bible passages and hymn verses to write a prayer asking the Lord for help.

Prayer

Dear God,

You have shown us in this story that even through You may severely test our faith in You, surely You desire us to keep our faith. Help us always to trust and hope in You to the end, that by faith in Your saving work, we may enter Your everlasting home and be with You forever. Amen.