

Sermon Notes
July 26, 2020
“Faith That Never Lets Go”
Matthew 15:21-28

The apple and the arrow – a story of trust

The Background

- Jesus and the Canaanite / Syro-Phoenician Woman is in Matthew 15:21-28 and Mark 7:24-30
- Jesus wants to get away
 - Mark 7:24
 - Mark 3:8

The Encounter

- “Lord” and “Son of David” – this woman’s hope, like Rahab and Ruth, is beyond her culture and religion
- Desperation – Mark 7:25
 - Satan’s influence (2 Corinthians 4:4)
 - Christ’s power (2 Corinthians 4:6)
- Silence – Matthew 15:23a
- Disciples and prejudice
 - She’s a Canaanite
 - She’s a woman
 - “Send her away” – Matthew 15:23b

Our Understanding

- Middle Eastern culture and teaching methods
- Jesus’ teaching is not in the classroom
- Jesus confronts the disciples’ prejudice AND draws out the woman’s faith at the same time
 - Matthew 15:25
 - John 2:25
 - Matthew 15:26
 - “little dogs” – an insult!
 - Matthew 15:27 – the woman’s magnificent response

Jesus’ Lesson

- The reality of God’s silence
 - Do we doubt, drift, deny?
 - The response of a pastor in Nazi Germany and the insight of a Scottish preacher
 - When Jesus is silent, Jesus has not forgotten you
- The condition of our hearts
 - Faith grows when we confront our prejudice
 - Peter and Acts 10
 - Acts 11:17
 - Don’t talk about “God”, talk about “Jesus”

- The courage of our perseverance

The woman clings to Jesus (Matthew 15:27)

God's answers to our prayers is not just "Yes", "No", or "Not yet"

"Faith that never lets go" is all about Jesus