

Questions to Think About and Discuss:

1. The Pharisees thought their observance of the law would save them, that it would earn them favour from God. In what ways can we sometimes think like this?

2. Why do we have a tendency to want to earn God's favour or blessings?

3. When the Syrophenician woman heard that Jesus was in town, what did she do? How often do you find yourself falling at the feet of Jesus in prayer? How would your prayer life look different if you were desperate like this woman was?

4. Jesus was bested by a Gentile woman in an argument. Why do you think He let that happen? Do you think His comment was rude or racist? How can we know that Jesus had the best intentions for this woman?

5. What happens when we start to believe that only certain people have access to or deserve salvation? How does our understanding that all people can be saved change how we view other unbelievers? What about other churches or those that disagree on secondary or tertiary matters such as baptism, spiritual gifts, or politics?

6. If salvation comes by faith and repentance and not by our obedience to the law, why obey God? What then should be our motive for loving God and obeying His word?

7. Jesus heals from afar and by touching the deaf man. What does this tell us about the power of Jesus?
