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Articles and Sermons :: Crumbs by David Wilkerson

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The woman with the vexed daughter persisted in seeking Jesus. Finally, the disciples urged their master, "Lord, send her away, get rid of her. She wonÂ't stop bothering us." Note JesusÂ' response to the womanÂ's pleas: "He answered her not a word" (Matthew 15:23). Evidently, Christ ignored the whole situation. Why would he do this? Jesus knew this womanÂ's story would be told to every future generation, and he wanted to reveal a truth to all who would read it. So, he tested the womanÂ's faith by saying, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (15:24). Christ was saying, "I came for the salvation of the Jews. Why should I waste their gospel on a Gentile?"

Now this statement would have sent most of us on our way, but the woman didnÂ't budge. I ask you, how often do you give up on prayer? How many times have you grown weary and reasoned, Â"IÂ've sought the Lord. I prayed and asked. I just donÂ't get any resultsÂ"?

Consider how this woman responded. She didnÂ't reply with a complaint, or an accusing finger, saying, Â"Why are you denying me, Jesus?Â" No, Scripture says just the opposite: Â"Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help meÂ" (15:25).

What follows next is hard to read. Once again, Jesus rebuffed the woman. Only this time his reply was even harsher. He told her, Â'lt is not meet to take the childrenÂ's bread, and to cast it to dogsÂ' (15:26). Once again, he was testing her.

Now the mother answered him, "Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their mastersÂ' table" (15: 27). What an incredible reply. This determined woman was not going to relent in her pursuit of Jesus. And the Lord com mended her for it. Jesus said to her, "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter w as made whole from that very hour" (15:28).

Beloved, we are not to settle for crumbs. We have been promised all the grace and mercy we need for our crises. And th at includes every crisis involving our families, saved or unsaved. WeÂ've been invited to come boldly to ChristÂ's throne, with confidence.

Posted by David Wilkerson on 7/18/2008

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