

Matthew 15:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

Analysis

Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me (ἡ δὲ ἐλθοῦσα προσεκύνει αὐτῷ λέγουσα, Κύριε, βοήθει μοι, hē de elthousa prosekynei autō legousa, Kyrie, boēthei moi)—despite apparent rejection, the woman drew nearer. The word prosekynei (worshipped, prostrated) indicates full submission and reverence. Her cry 'Lord, help me' (Κύριε, βοήθει μοι) is brief, desperate, and theologically profound.

This three-word prayer—'Lord, help me'—contains the essence of saving faith: recognizing Christ's lordship, admitting helplessness, and casting oneself entirely on his mercy. She didn't argue theology, demand rights, or dispute Christ's statement about his mission. Instead, she worshipped and pleaded. Her persistence through rejection demonstrated the unshakeable faith Jesus sought to reveal and reward.

Historical Context

A Canaanite woman approaching a Jewish rabbi was socially transgressive on multiple levels: gender barriers (rabbis rarely taught women publicly), ethnic barriers (Jews had 'no dealings with Samaritans,' let alone Canaanites), and religious barriers (she was a pagan Gentile). Yet her daughter's demon possession (v. 22) drove her past all social constraints. Maternal desperation created boldness that religious propriety would have forbidden.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the woman's response to apparent rejection (drawing nearer and worshipping rather than withdrawing in offense) model persevering faith?
2. What makes the simple prayer 'Lord, help me' so powerful, and how does its brevity contrast with lengthy, elaborate prayers?
3. In what situations has desperation driven you to break through barriers (social, emotional, or spiritual) to reach Jesus?

Interlinear Text

ἡ	δὲ	ἐλθοῦσα	προσεκύνει	αὐτῷ	λέγουσα	Κύριε	
G3588	Then	came	she	and worshipped	him	saying	Lord
G1161		G2064		G4352	G846	G3004	G2962

βοήθει μοι

help	me
G997	G3427

Additional Cross-References

Mark 9:22 (Parallel theme): And ofttimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.

Matthew 14:33 (Worship): Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

Matthew 20:31 (References Lord): And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David.

Matthew 8:2 (Worship): And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

Genesis 32:26 (Parallel theme): And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

Hosea 12:4 (Parallel theme): Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Beth-el, and there he spake with us;

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