

Matthew 15:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Analysis

Jesus' response to the Canaanite woman—'O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt'—commends extraordinary faith. 'Great is thy faith' contrasts with His frequent 'little faith' rebukes to disciples. Her persistent faith despite apparent rejection, ethnic barriers, and insulting language (dogs, v. 26) demonstrated uncommon trust. 'Be it unto thee even as thou wilt' grants her request, rewarding perseverance. This Gentile woman's faith shames Israelite unbelief.

Historical Context

The Canaanite woman faced multiple obstacles: wrong ethnicity (Canaanite not Jew), wrong gender (women were marginalized), wrong theology (pagan not monotheist). Jesus' initial seeming rejection ('It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs,' v. 26) tested her faith. Her humble persistence ('yet the dogs eat of the crumbs,' v. 27) demonstrated faith surpassing many Israelites.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What obstacles to faith are you allowing to limit your persistence in prayer?
2. How does the Canaanite woman's response to apparent rejection model faith for you?

Interlinear Text

τότε ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῇς Ὡ γύναι
Then answered G3588 Jesus and said her O woman
G5119 G611 G2424 G2036 G846 G5599 G1135

μεγάλη σου ἡ πίστις· γενηθήτω σοι ὡς θέλεις
great is thy G3588 faith be it unto thee even as thou wilt
G3173 G4675 G4102 G1096 G4671 G5613 G2309

καὶ ιάθη ἡ θυγάτηρ αὐτῆς ἀπὸ τῆς ὥρας
And was made whole G3588 daughter her from G3588 hour
G2532 G2390 G2364 G846 G575 G5610

ἐκείνης
that very
G1565

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 8:13 (Faith): And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Psalms 145:19 (Parallel theme): He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

Mark 5:34 (Faith): And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Matthew 9:22 (Faith): But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

Matthew 8:10 (Faith): When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Job 13:15 (Faith): Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

Luke 17:5 (Faith): And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

Job 23:10 (Parallel theme): But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

Luke 7:50 (Faith): And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

Matthew 14:31 (Faith): And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?