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The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Delivering a Syrophenician's Daughter

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THE MIRACLES OF JESUS CHRIST

MIRACLE TWENTY-ONE: Delivering a Syrophenician's Daughter (Mt. 15:21-28; Mk. 7:24-30)

SURVEY

Jesus begins this miracle by testing the faith of the desperate Gentile mother who begged Him to heal her demon-possessed daughter.

- The Messiah: *"It is not right to take the children's bread (a reference to the Jews) and feed it to dogs" (a reference to Gentiles).*

The mother: *"Yes, Lord, but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."*

Needless to say, she had passed the test with flying colors and her daughter was delivered that very instant.

SIGNIFICANCE

- This is the only miracle where Jesus was temporarily silent and non-committal in regard to a miracle for healing.
- It is the first of two miracles involving a young girl. For the first, see miracle 16.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Note how Matthew introduces this miracle: *A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, Lord... have mercy on me! (Mt. 15:22)*

W. L. Pettingill writes:

It will not be forgotten that this woman was a Gentile, and not only a Gentile, but a Canaanite, a representative of that race which was under God's peculiar curse. *'Thou shalt drive out the Canaanite'* — this was the word to Israel upon their entering the land of Canaan; and the promise of Zechariah 14:21, looking forward to the restored land and restored temple worship, says, *'In that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of Jehovah of host.'* But grace is without any limit and overleaps all obstacles. Through Israel's failure, this despised outcast receives the blessing of the Lord that maketh rich. It is at first a most astonishing thing to see the Lord Jesus refusing to respond to this woman's cry of need. It is so unlike him, whose ears are always open to the slightest call upon his name. But he cannot answer her. She is calling upon him as the Son of David; and so he is, but as such, as Son of David, he has nothing to do with a Canaanite. (*The Gospel of the Kingdom*, Fundamental Truth Publishers, Findlay, Ohio, p. 183.)

- Usually it was the fickle crowds that kept seekers from Him, but on this occasion and at least one other, it was the disciples themselves! Note:
 1. *"But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us."* (Mt. 15:23)
 2. *"Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them."* (Mt. 19:13)
- This young girl now joins a number of demon-possessed females to be delivered by Jesus. Note:
 1. *"Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils."* (Mk. 16:9)
 2. *"And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils"* (Lk. 8:2).