

Matthew 15:21-28 (ESV) And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Where did Jesus go and why did He go there?

- 1. He went to THE DISTRICT OF TYRE AND SIDON.
 - a. This was a good <u>60 MILES</u> walk from where He was in the land of Gennesaret.
 - b. This area was a totally **GENTILE AREA**.
- 2. Jesus had withdrawn from Israel **PHILOSOPHICALLY** so He withdrew from them **<u>GEOGRAPHICALLY</u>**.
 - a. He's on a short term **MISSION TRIP** showing the **GREAT COMMISSION** before He **COMMANDS IT**.

Who did Jesus meet?

1. He meets a **CANAANITE WOMAN**; she's fully **GENTILE**.

What did Jesus do?

- 1. At first He **DOESN'T ACKNOWLEDGE** her.
- 2. Then He calls her **<u>A DOG</u>**.
- 3. Finally He <u>GIVES HER</u> what she needed; He <u>HEALS</u> her daughter.
 - a. He granted her request because of **HER GREAT FAITH**.

What does this say about Jesus?

- 1. He is a **GOD OF MERCY.**
 - a. He showed mercy **BY COMING TO THIS GENTILE AREA**.
 - b. He showed mercy **BY NOT IMMEDIATELY RESPONDING** to the lady.
 - c. He showed mercy WHEN HE CALLED HER A DOG.
 - d. He showed mercy **<u>BY GRANTING HER REQUEST</u>**.

Jesus is a God of Mercy. Has He been merciful to you?