

Matthew 15:21-28

The Outsiders, Part One

September 12, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro -

How many of you have ever felt like an outsider?

- **Last week I spoke at a High School Retreat for BRS.**
- **The teachers were nice, the kids were nice--but I was still an outsider**

Feeling like an outsider is pretty much a universal phenomenon.

In Matthew 15 we find three interactions Jesus had with outsiders.

Interaction #1 - A Lesson in Prayer

v.21 - Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

The people of Tyre and Sidon were outsiders.

Jesus went to Tyre and Sidon to minister to outsiders.

Mark 7:24 - When Jesus went to the region of Tyre and Sidon, He entered a house and wanted no one to know it, but He couldn't be hidden.

- **Imagine what your life would be like if you could heal the sick or feed thousands of people with a small amount of food.**
- ***What do you think the demands on your time would be?***

v.22 - Behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I wasn't sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It's not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

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"We learn something from everyone who passes through our lives. Some lessons are painful, and some are painless... but, all are priceless." - Anonymous

Do you think there's a difference between prayer and effective prayer?

Bible: The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man has great power and produces wonderful results.

1. Pray fervently.

Her prayer wasn't a casual prayer.

She wasn't mindlessly ticking off her prayer requests. *"Bless this person and that person."*

She **cried out** to Him, **"Have mercy on me!"**

Hebrews 13:3 - Remember those in prison, *as if you were there yourself.* Remember those being mistreated, *as if you felt their pain in your own bodies.*

If you want to pray more effectively for someone--put yourself in their shoes.

If a friend of yours is out of work--*how should you pray?*

- **As if you were out of work!**

If someone you know is struggling with an addiction--how should you pray?

- **As if you were the one who was struggling!**
- **Put yourself in the person's place!**

2. Pray persistently.

v.22 - "My daughter is severely demon-possessed." **But He answered her not a word.**

Jesus could have answered this woman's request immediately.

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- *My daughter is severely demon possessed.*
- Jesus could have said, "Go home. She's healed."
- And that would have been the end of it.

3 reasons God doesn't always answer our prayers immediately.

#1 - God is patiently waiting for a better me.

#2 - God is patiently waiting for a better moment.

Bible - Don't grow weary of doing good, for at *just the right time* we'll reap, if we don't give up.

Bible: In the fullness of time (*at just the right time*) God sent His Son.

#3 - God is patiently waiting for a better miracle.

- **Jesus got word that Lazarus was sick, but instead of coming right away, He delays...**

One translation - His disciples begged Him, "Send her away, *she keeps crying out after us.*"

She was persistent.

3. Pray humbly.

v.24 - Jesus answered and said, "I wasn't sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

John 1 - Jesus came to His own (His own people--the Jews) and they didn't receive Him.

But at the end of the gospels, Jesus says: "**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all nations.**"

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v.25 - Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!” But He answered and said, “It's not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.”

Mark 7:27 - Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled *first*..."

v.27 - She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.”

George Washington Carver was a brilliant scientist. He developed hundreds of useful products from the peanut. He said when he was young he asked God to tell him the mysteries of the universe. God told him: "That knowledge is reserved for Me alone." So George said, "God, please tell me the mystery of the peanut." And God said, "Well, George, that's more your size." And He told him.

Luke 18:13-14 - "The tax collector stood at a distance. He wouldn't even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For *all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*"

4. Include worship in your prayer.

v.25 - Then she came and worshipped Him.

5. Pray according to God's Word.

Jesus said, “It's not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.”

6. Pray in faith.

v.28 - Then Jesus answered and said to her, “Woman, great is your *faith!* Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.