

Happy Mother's Day

Moms of faith

5/8/2011

Happy Mother's Day to you! Maybe you are a mother but each of us here has a mother. Today I would like to introduce to you a very special lady who had a very special encounter with Jesus. We don't even know this ladies name but Jesus lavishes on her some extreme words of praise and describes her awesome character in just four words and we can see in her what it means to be a mother of faith.

HAVE YOU EVER KNOWN A PERSON WHO'S CHARACTER COULD BE SUMMED UP IN 4 WORDS? In verse 28 of our Scripture passage, Jesus said to a Gentile mother: "You have great faith." She was a Canaanite woman who came from the country north of Palestine—a country hostile to the Jews—and she was presumably married. She had at least one child, but that's all we know about her. We don't even know her name!

All we know is that in her single encounter with Jesus, He said to her, "You have great faith." Only 4 words, but they were enough to enshrine her as one of the greatest mothers of all time! And these 4 words tell us everything we need to know, and we can trust them because they were spoken by Jesus. Amen?

JESUS IS AN EXPERT ON FAITH. The Bible tells us that He searched for it as a gem collector searches for fine jewels, and when He found it He was filled with joy. He didn't always find it in His disciples. Not once did He say to Peter, John, or James, "You have great faith." But He said it to this nameless mother from outside the house of Israel!

Moms of faith:

1. Seek Jesus

"Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to (Jesus)..."
Matthew 15:21-22a

How to seek Jesus:

The Word

Prayer

Fellowship

Worship

2. Have real problems

"A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession." MT 15:22

Somehow we have a mistaken notion that people of faith and people without problems. This is absolutely not true.

A. Won't be ignored

"Jesus did not answer a word." Matthew 15:23

"Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness."
Matthew 10:1

B. Won't be discouraged by the actions of other people

"So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us. He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." Mt 15:23

In the culture of the day, this woman had 3 strikes against her:

She was a Gentile

She was a Canaanite

She was a woman

3. Ask the Lord for help

“The woman came and knelt before him, "Lord, help me!" she said.” Mt 15:25

Like any mom this woman carried tremendous burden for her child. No one had been able to help the child. She was desperate to get her daughter the help she needed. The mom and daughter were connected and by helping the daughter, Jesus would be helping the mother. This is the ministry of intercession.

Great prayers of the Bible

- The woman of great faith:
"Lord, help me!" Mt 15:25
- The thief on the cross:
“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”
Luke 23:42
- Peter when he began to sink:
“Lord, save me!” Mt 14:30

4. Rely on the goodness of God.

Notice that this mom of great faith had nothing to offer the Lord as a reason why he should grant her request. This mom of great faith was totally relying on the faithfulness of God.

“He replied, "It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to their dogs. Yes, Lord, she said, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table." Mt 15:26-27

We can rely on God because God is:

Good
Kind
Faithful to His promises

5. Make a difference

“Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.” Mt 15:28