

From Pastors' Desk

Last Sunday (6th December 2009) Sermon by Rev. Ondego

Tex: Mathew 15: 21-28 Title: Persist at all times.

At the beginning of these verses we see several scenes:-

Scene one: the Cities of the tyre and Sidon.

These were inhabited by skilful sinners and the Lord had declared a distribution of all the inhabitants; (**Zachariah 9:2-**

4) Scene two; Jesus and His disciples. **Scene three;** a woman from a totally sinful entry Sidon and she is in need.

The woman just like all of us had a problem. She looked left right and centre and she made a judgment : Jesus can sort me out. All of us, have needs in this world, devastating families, financial setbacks, physical health problems, employment failures, spiritual shortcomings. The list is long.

In the midst of all these you need someone to help you, you need someone to predict a solution, you need someone to stand by your side. This woman needed someone to pronounce healing for her child. She needed a true doctor. She chose on Christ. Yes she was right.

But there was a serious obstacle which called for her persistence. In the cause of this she made a petition to Jesus by going to Him, by crying to Him loudly without shame and by recognizing Him as Jesus the son of David!! Her efforts and desire failed. Verse 23 tells us that something terribly happened. Jesus did not answer. Wooh, The disciples of Jesus turned her away. They requested Jesus to send her away. .

This is what we all undergo in our everyday life. When we think someone can help, he keeps quiet. When we think his assistants can persuade him for us, they turn us away. We get discouraged. This woman got no discouragements instead she cried even further. To her surprise verse 24 reveals that the all the time quiet Jesus now opens up and says He was not for the Sidonis and the Tryres!! Long then the Jews considered anyone who was not a Jew a dog. (*See Matt 7:6*) Jesus put this Canaanite woman on test. We all can get into this test and imagine God is not hearing us or He has ignored us. NO. Just persist.

When things seem tougher verse 24 teaches us the humility before our waiting Lord. She knelt before the Lord and emphasized her case. Our good God can seem oppossive to your request. Don't give up, just persist. She suggested a solution which worked. Lord; just give me what is right for you. Your measure is sufficient even if it is an ounce. Jesus granted her request.

We all fail to receive what we ask for because we set the measures yet our God can give us too little but too enough. Let us learn how to persist before the Lord and we shall receive our needs from Him. The woman from Sidon received as a result of persistence. May the Holy spirit lead us to humility and persistence before the Lord. Amen.