

Sermon

Matthew 15:21–28

‘Holy Confrontation’

**HOLY
CONFRONTATION**



'Holy Confrontation'

Matthew 15:21-28 (NIV)

21 Leaving that place,
Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

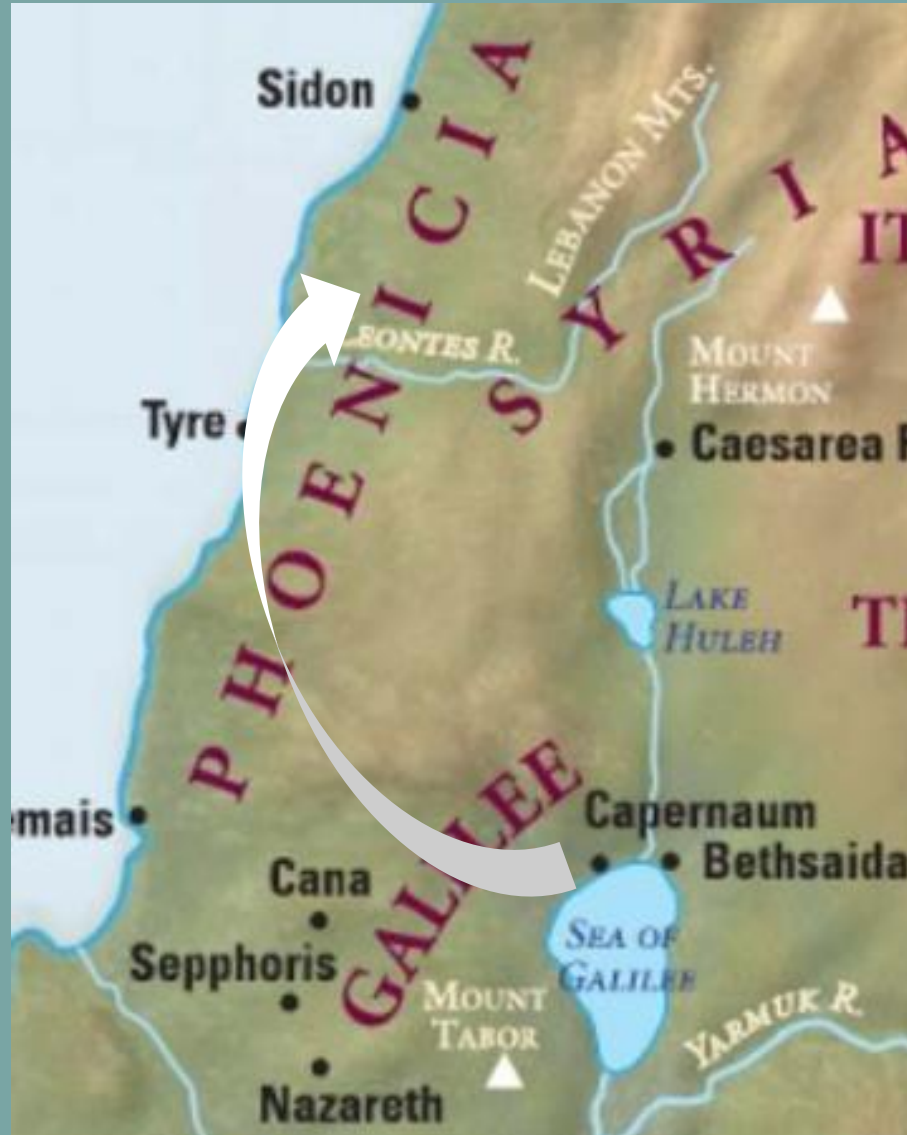
Mark 7:24-20 (NIV)

24 Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre.
He entered a house and did not want anyone to know
it; yet he could not keep his presence secret.

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Matthew 15:21–28 (NIV)

22 A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him,

Deuteronomy 20:1-20 (NIV)

16 However, in the cities of the nations the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, do not leave alive anything that breathes.

17 Completely destroy them—the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

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Matthew 15:21–28 (NIV)

22 A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him,
crying out,

“Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me!
My daughter is demon-possessed
and suffering terribly.”

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Matthew 15:21–28 (NIV)

23 Jesus did not answer a word.
So his disciples came to him and urged him,
“Send her away,
for she keeps crying out after us.”
24 He answered,
“I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”

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Matthew 15:21–28 (NIV)

25 The woman came and knelt before him.

"Lord, help me!" she said.

26 He replied,

"It is not right to take the children's bread
and toss it to the dogs."

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Matthew 15:21–28 (NIV)

27 “Yes it is, Lord,”
she said.

“Even the dogs eat the crumbs
that fall from their master’s table.”

28 Then Jesus said to her,
“Woman, you have great faith!
Your request is granted.”

And her daughter was healed at that moment.

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Matthew 15:21–28 (NIV)

Who are you in this episode?

The Canaanite woman?

Jesus i.e. the holder of mercy/power?

A disciple?

The daughter?

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Numbers 27:1-11 (NIV)

1 The daughters of Zelophehad ... came forward
2 and stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the
leaders and the whole assembly ... and said,
3 "Our father died in the wilderness. ...
4 Why should our father's name disappear
from his clan because he had no son?
Give us property among our father's relatives."

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Matthew 15:21–28 (NIV)

Faith-filled imagination reveals ...

God’s care and abundance are not diminished
by being shared.

Jesus does not lose authority
by listening and pivoting.

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Matthew 15:21–28 (NIV)

Advocacy and perseverance
break open what fear and/or habit has restricted.

Faith often looks like perseverance - Love may speak

God's mercy is revealed and widened
through those brave enough to imagine
more than the eyes can see

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Matthew 15:21–28 (NIV)

When courage does not dominate but persists ...

When imagination refuses to believe
the table is small ...

When faith does not retreat when dismissed,
but dares to speak ...

... God's mercy abounds,
the table grows larger,
and the crumbs reveal the feast.

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Matthew 15:21–28 (NIV)

So if you ever come to the conclusion that
Jesus is not listening, or
God no longer cares ...

DON'T GIVE UP!

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Matthew 15:21–28 (NIV)

What is one way you grew in faith last year?

What is one way you know
you should grow in faith this year?

Who can you encourage/help to grow in faith?

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