**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr November 5, 2023**

**Dogged Determination**

Matthew 15:21-28

**Key Truth:** Jesus is looking for a heart that says, “I’m not here because I’m good, I’m here because you are God!”

**A Mother’s Desperation!**

1. The woman is motivated by her love for her daughter and

 belief that Jesus is the only answer to her problem.

2. The woman was undeterred by Jesus’ silence.

3. She was unbothered by the disciples’ disdain for her.

**The Disciples Missed The Opportunity:**

1. They asked Jesus to grant her request for the wrong

 reason.

2. They were annoyed by her presence and persistence.

3. They missed the opportunity, to show grace, mercy and

 compassion.

**Did Jesus Really Call Her A Dog?**

1. Jesus’ silence was testing her persistence.

2. Jesus’ response was testing her humility and faith.

 A. Jesus words will either lead to our offense or obedience.

3. Jesus show’s her compassion because He knows her heart!

**What We Learn:**

1. Those who come to Jesus in desperation, humility, and

 faith find their every need met in Him.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls**: Don’t allow your pride to drive you away from your deliverance and healing. Your deliverance and healing are found only in Jesus Christ.

**Connection Group Homework:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

How is your faith tested when you face hard times?

Consider some of the more difficult situations you have faced in your life. How did your faith come into play during those times?

Based on Matthew 15:21-28: What are your first impressions about this story? What is different about this story than many of Jesus’ other miraculous healings?

How do you feel about Jesus’ reaction to this woman?

The Faith of the Centurion” is another example of someone who Jesus said had great faith. As you read through the story in Matthew 8:5-13 why do you think Jesus “marveled” at his faith?

Read 2 Kings 5:9-14: What does Naaman’s response to Elisha (vv. 11-12) reveal about his opinion of himself? How might such an opinion produce disappointment in our relationships with others? In our relationship with God?

Why does an opinion like that keep us from God’s healing and intimacy in our own lives?

How often do you consider your need for Jesus? Do you approach Him with self-reliance, or desperation?