Provoked Perseverance! When Change Matters

REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 15:21-28 FROM A POSTCOLONIAL, RACE, AND GENDER PERSPECTIVE.
Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 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.”

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.”

He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”

The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said.

He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

“Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.
Mark 7: 24-30

Jesus Honors a Syrophoenician Woman’s Faith

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. 25 In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. 26 The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

27 “First let the children eat all they want,” he told her, “for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

28 “Lord,” she replied, “even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

29 Then he told her, “For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.”

30 She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.
Mark:
• Syrophoenician Woman
• No crying in Mark or addressing of Jesus.
• Not found in Mark.

Matthew:
• Canaanite Woman.
• Cries and uses “Son of David.”
• Jesus ignores her and engages with his disciples instead of her directly.
Difference

Mark

27 “First let the children eat all they want,” he told her, “for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

Matthew

• 24 He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”
• 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.”
Reception History: is the study of how biblical texts have changed over time in different cultures and communities, through transmission, translation, or reading, retelling, and reworking.
Roman Provinces of Israel and Region First Century A.D.
Desiring Canaanite Women

Genealogy of Jesus Christ

Tamar
Rahab
Ruth
Bathsheba
Stereotypes of Canaanites

- Transgressors
- Outsiders/Others/Enemies
- Colonized
The Dogs
Thank You

Dr. Sharon Jacob
Associate Professor of New Testament