



Provoked Perseverance! When Change Matters

REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 15:21-28 FROM A POSTCOLONIAL, RACE,
AND GENDER PERSPECTIVE.

Matthew 15:21-28

The Faith of a Canaanite Woman

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

Mark 7: 24-30

Jesus Honors a Syrophenician Woman's Faith

- ▶ ²⁴ Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre.^[a] 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:

- Syrophenician 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

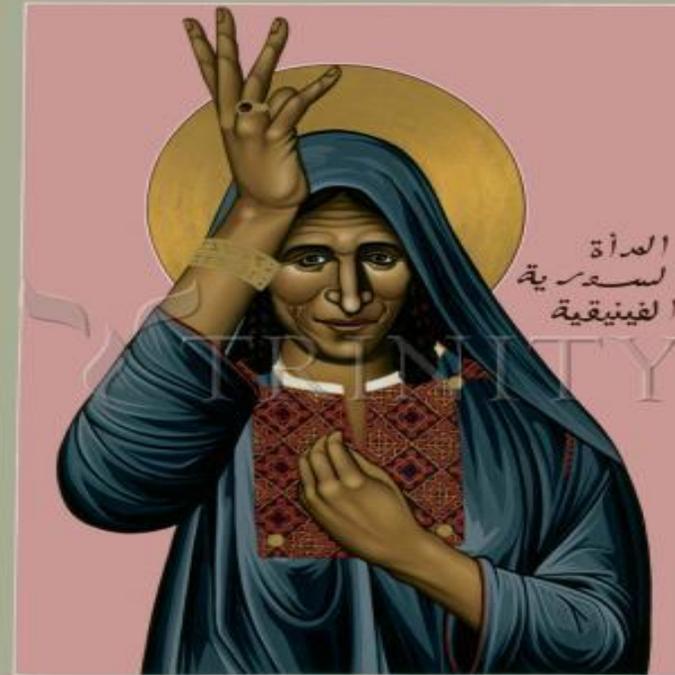
Mark

- ▶ 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

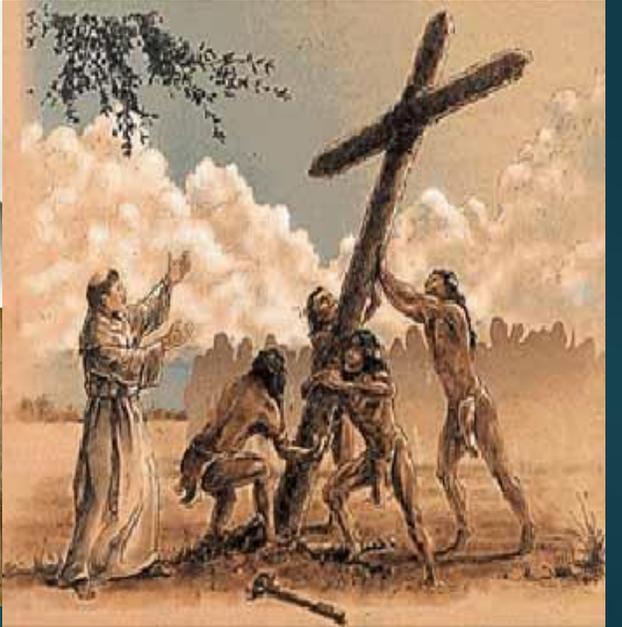
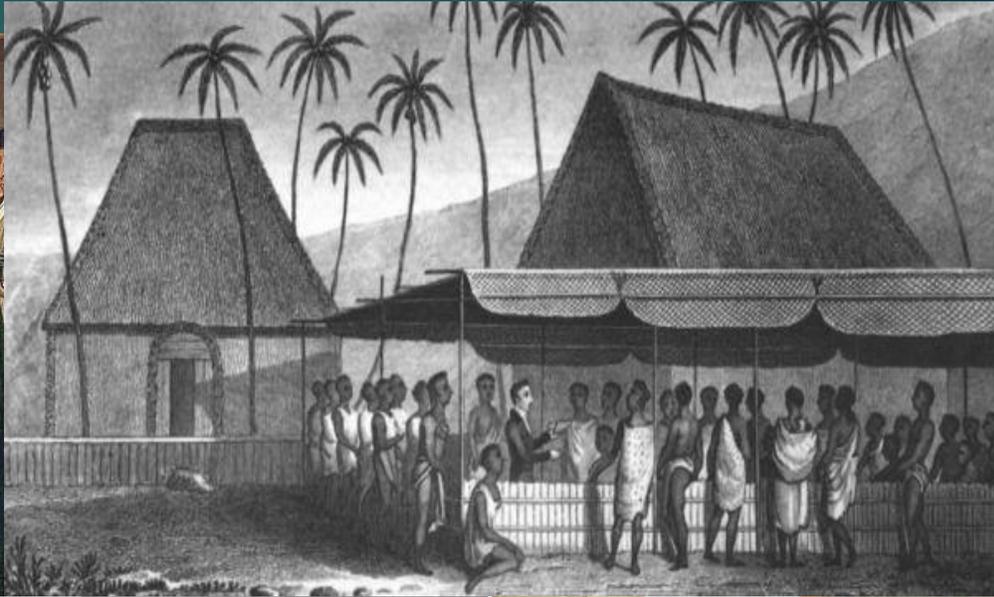
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Reception History: is the study of how biblical texts have changed over time in different cultures and communities, through transmission, translation, or reading, retelling, and reworking.



THE SYRO-PHOENICIAN WOMAN

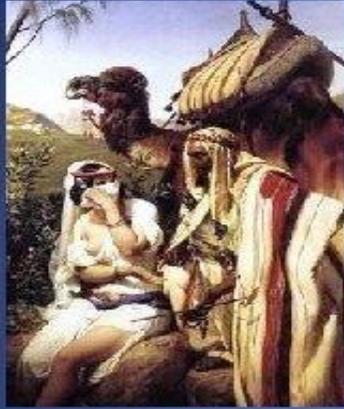
المرأة
السورية
الفينيقية



Roman Provinces of Israel and Region First Century A.D.



Genealogy of Jesus Christ



Tamar



Ruth



Rahab



Bathsheba

Desiring Canaanite Women

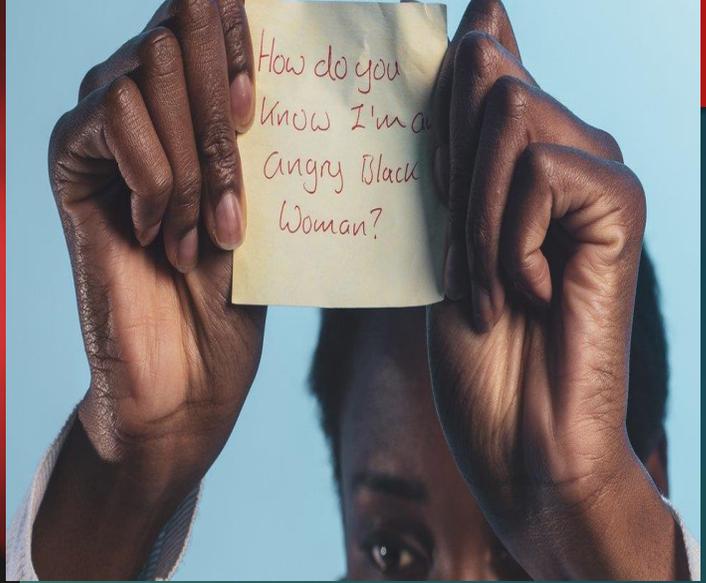
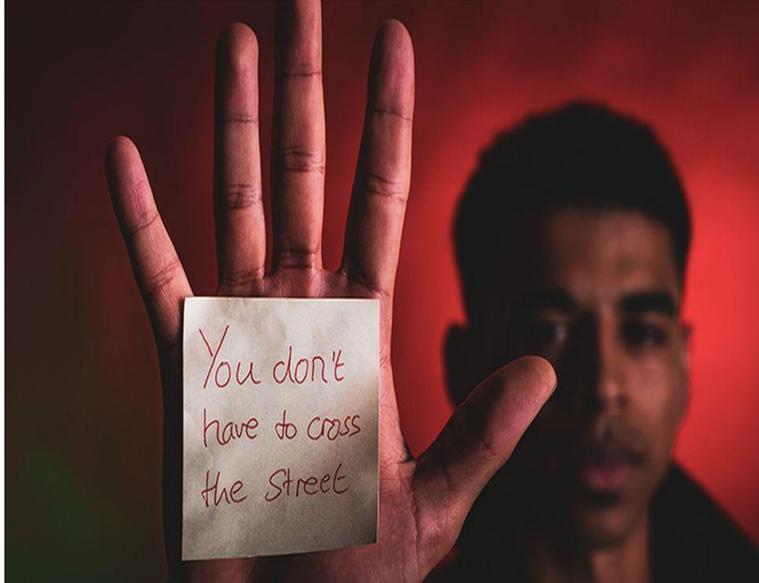
Stereotypes of Canaanites

- Transgressors
- Outsiders/Others/Enemies
- Colonized



The Dogs







Thank You

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