

The Story Houston – 8|18|19 – Sermon Study Guide – Pt. 3: *The Time Jesus Called a Woman a Dog*

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Welcome to The Story...

and to our August sermon series called ***Knowing Her Place***. All month long, we're exploring every detail of several personal encounters Jesus had with women from all walks of life. You might be surprised to learn how Jesus understood the role of women in his life and ministry, and what that might mean for us today.

Before We Begin...

What are the differences between 'Christian complementarianism' and 'Christian egalitarianism'? What is the biblical basis for each worldview, and where does each fall short?

Describe the alternative vision of femininity, masculinity, and gender roles presented in the Bible? Where is this alternative presented throughout Jesus' life and ministry?

That Time Jesus Called a Woman a Dog

Today's scripture tells about the time Jesus encountered a foreign woman whose daughter was struggling.

Matthew 15:21–28 **21** Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. **22** Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." **23** But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." **24** He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." **25** But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." **26** He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." **27** She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." **28** Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

In both versions of this story recorded in the gospels, Matthew and Mark immediately point out the woman's ethnicity; Matthew calls her a "Canaanite" while Mark labels her "Syrophenician". How was her ethnicity pertinent to the story?

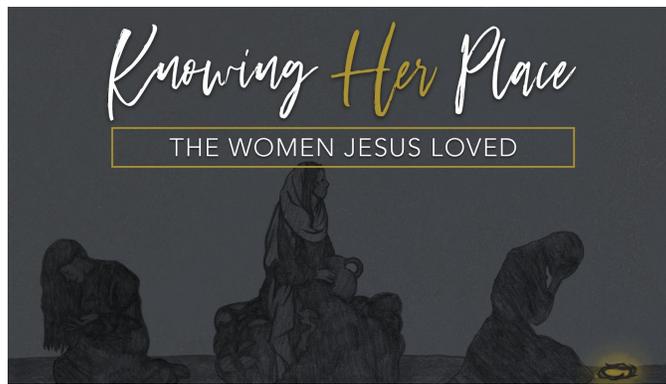
Who were the Canaanites, and how would you describe their relationship with the Israelites?

Jesus and the Dogs

Why did the disciples complain to Jesus?

What was Jesus' response, and what did that mean in context?

How did the woman respond to Jesus' claim that he only came to help the Israelites? (see verse 25)



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Why did Jesus refer to the woman - who was down on all fours - as a dog? How do you imagine his Jewish disciples reacted?

How did the woman's response in verse 27 turn the conversation around?

By Grace through Faith

In verse 28, Jesus applauded the woman's faith. Throughout the New Testament, faith is lifted up as the only thing necessary for salvation (John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9). Why was this such a radical turn of events, especially in the historical context of 1st Century Judaism?

What did this woman's salvation mean for the movement of Jesus then? And what does it mean for us today?

Dogs Like Us

What was the connection between the woman's humility and her faith? How did her humility before Jesus lead to her expression of faith, which ultimately led to her salvation?

What did this story reveal to you about yourself today?

Your Notes: