

Matthew
Chapter 15
Student

Contents: Scribes and Pharisees rebuked. Syrophonecian/Canaanite's daughter healed. The multitude healed and 4000 people are fed.

Characters: **JESUS**, Peter, (disciples), Syrophonecian/Canaanite woman, her daughter.

Conclusion: The Christian life is not a label to put on, but a life to live. It is not a system of dogmasⁱ to be quibbled about but a great principle to be lived out. Genuine faith overcomes all obstacles. His compassion meets all needs.

Key Word: Hypocrites, 7.

Strong Verses: 8, 28.

Striking Facts: 28. This was the first time the rejected **CHRIST** ministered to a Gentile (cf. Matthew 12:18). When a Gentile addressed **HIM** as "Son of David" (Verse 22) **HE** made no reply, but when she acknowledged **HIM** as "**LORD**," **HE** answered immediately (25). The Gentile has no claim under the covenant rights and promises of Israel.

Word Study:

Syrophonecian/Canaanite - from the borders of Tyre and Sidon a Greek, a "Syrophoenician by race" ([Mark 7:26](#)), and again as "a Canaanitish woman" ([Matthew 15:22](#)). This seems to mean that she was of Canaanite descent, a native of the Phoenician (modern day Lebanon) seaboard, Greek in religion, and probably also in speech. The names Syria and Phoenicia are both applied to the same region in Acts 21:2-3. Syrophoenician may therefore denote simply an inhabitant of these parts. According to Straboⁱⁱ (xvii.3), this district was called Syrophoenicia to distinguish it from the North African Lybophoenicia.

Questions:

1. What tradition was **JESUS** talking about in verses 3-6?
2. What text in Isaiah is verses 8-9 from? **Isaiah 29:13**

3. What defiles a man/person?

4. What was **JESUS'** command to ignorant teachers?

5. Who did JESUS say was HIS "primary" ministry was focused on?

6. What was the source for the woman's daughter?

7. How long had JESUS been healing people?

Bonus Question: How would you have felt and what would you have done if JESUS treated you like the Caananite woman?

ⁱ Dogma - a principle or set of principles laid down by an authority as incontrovertibly true.

ⁱⁱ Strabo - a Greek geographer, philosopher, and historian who lived in Asia Minor during the transitional period of the Roman Republic into the Roman Empire.