

DELIGHTFUL FAITH

--MARK 7:24-30--

INTRODUCTION:

Within the pages of Mark's Gospel we meet many people, some are named and other unnamed, the event we are going to look at this morning is of one who was unnamed. What makes this event so remarkable is this woman's faith that delighted the Lord Jesus. When Jesus delights in someone's faith it is important for to look at what makes that person's faith delightful. When we examine this woman's faith it can be of great help to any person who has not yet come to faith in Jesus. It can also be an equally great help to the believer who is struggling with his or her faith in difficult circumstances.

I. DELIGHTFUL FAITH HAS A DIVINE ENCOUNTER (Mark 7:24-25)

- a. When this beautiful encounter is viewed from beginning to end in its _____, it is evident that it was divinely arranged.
- b. Mark tells us that Jesus went to the region of _____, which is situated northwest of Galilee.
- c. Though the Lord intended this trip for rest and private instruction for His disciples, He also knew of the divine _____ that awaited Him.
- d. Word that Jesus was there reached a woman whose little daughter had an unclean _____, in other words, her daughter was demon possessed.

II. DELIGHTFUL FAITH IS PERSISTENT (Mark 7:26)

- a. This woman knew about Jesus, knew that He had the power to heal diseases and cast out demons and she came and in _____ reverence fell down before Jesus.
- b. The barrier here was _____, and it went both ways.
- c. Mark tells us that she kept asking for Jesus' _____, this indicates that this woman was unwilling to give up. (Matthew 15:22)

- a. Matthew 15:23, the parallel passage to this one, tells us that although she kept asking persistently, Jesus, at first, did not _____ to her.

III. DELIGHTFUL FAITH IS HUMBLE (Mark 7:27)

- b. Even the disciples asked Jesus to _____ her away because she kept shouting her request. (Matthew 15:24)
- c. Matthew 15:25 records, "*But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, 'Lord, _____ me!' "*" (Matthew 15:25, NASB95)
- d. Jesus continued to test the genuineness of her _____ by basically telling her the same as He had just told the disciples.

IV. DELIGHTFUL FAITH TRUSTS IN JESUS (Mark 7:28-30)

- e. Jesus knew that this woman's faith was _____ and had been given to her from His Father, and as such it would not be discouraged or dissuaded.
- f. This woman's response, brought out by the Lord Jesus, displayed a quality of faith that Jesus called "_____ faith." (Matthew 15:28; Matthew 8:10)
- g. The greatness of faith displayed in this woman's life is _____ when you compare it to what she knew about Jesus.
- h. Jesus knew all along what He was going to do for this woman, but He prolonged His _____ with her in order to display the nature of genuine faith.
- i. The woman wanted her daughter freed from the demon that oppressed her, and Jesus _____ that request.

CONCLUSION:

This Gentile woman's little daughter being freed from the demon that possessed her is wonderful, but it is not the primary purpose that this account is recorded for us. The focus of this passage is on the Gentile woman's faith which was characterized by persistence, humility, penitence, and reverence, and the object of her faith; namely, the Lord Jesus Christ.