

BIG IDEA: Jesus came to save outsiders (the dirty/wicked/sinful).**PRAY****1) INTRO**• The Village

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2) vv21-28 – CANAANITE WOMAN

- Earlier in Matt 15, JC was in Galilee
- Scribes and Pharisees
 - Traditions/expectations & challenged JC
 - Cleanliness – hand-washing
 - JC challenged them that true cleanliness doesn’t come from washed hands, etc
 - Changed heart – is where true cleanliness comes from...a cleansed & changed heart
- JC addresses the Pharisees’ attitude...and that of many Jews
 - Thought that they could be infected by others & be made unclean/dirty
 - JC shows that’s not true
 - As God’s people, we’re to infect others...w/ JC
- JC leaves Jewish territory for time to minister in Gentile regions
 - From Galilee & travels NW to Tyre & Sidon (Phoenicia – modern day Lebanon on Mediterranean Sea)
 - Prominent cities in Phoenicia
 - Known as being wicked cities/far from God – like Vegas or L.A. – or Port Alberni (still high crime rate)
 - Tyre & Sidon were condemned by OT prophets for their worship of Baal & arrogant materialism
 - JC enters into pagan territory – where Gentiles live/“unclean” people live
 - This is the location of this story
- A Canaanite woman enters the scene
 - She’s not an Israelite/not a Jew...pagan, Gentile background

- As a Canaanite, she’s, historically, an enemy of Israel
- But, she comes crying out to JC for mercy
 - Contrast that w/ scribes & Pharisees
- She addresses Jesus as “Lord, Son of David”
 - Shows some recognition that JC is the Messiah
 - Recognizes that JC is the rightful ruler of Israel
 - She acknowledges JC as Messiah AND Healer
- But, JC didn’t answer her
 - Scholars believe this to be a teaching moment for disciples
- Attitude toward her
 - The disciples display typical Israelite male attitude here – they harbored bias against women and non-Jews...Canaanites
 - And, here, she’s both
 - And, they treat her as one who’s dirty/unclean/to be ignored
 - JC explains that he came first to Israel, he concentrated his efforts there, and that they were his primary audience
- But, she still calls out to Jesus for help
 - JC response is somewhat startling...calls her a dog
 - He calls the Canaanite a canine
 - The Jewish understanding is that they are God’s children, but that Gentiles are dogs
 - The common dog was a scavenging animal – literally, actually dirty...which is what Jews would call her
 - But, JC uses the word for pet dog
 - In reality, JC didn’t intend to insult at all
 - And, she responds with humility and hope
 - And, Jesus recognizes her faith, shows mercy, & instantly heals her daughter
- This woman was considered an outsider
 - B/c she’s a Gentile...she’s not a Jew
 - She would’ve been seen as unclean/dirty b/c of that
 - But, JC shows that there’s room for outsiders in his kingdom...those who’re viewed as dirty/unclean
 - This is the purpose for his going to Gentile territory

3) vv29-31 – JESUS HEALS MANY

- Following this account, JC continues to minister among Gentiles
 - He moved on from Tyre and Sidon to the Gentile areas north of the Sea of Galilee
 - Many came to JC there so that they'd be healed...and he healed them
 - Lame, blind, crippled, mute...JC healed them
 - And, they marvelled & glorified God

4) v32-39 – JESUS FEEDS 4,000

- Then Matt gives us another account of JC feeding thousands
 - Chap 14 showed him feeding 5,000 men (15,000+)
 - Now, we see JC feeding 4,000 men (~15,000 again)
 - Specifically 4,000 Gentile men (15,000 Gentiles)
- Scholars call this the Gentile version of what we saw earlier in Ch. 14
 - The point is that JC has compassion on these Gentiles...just as he had compassion on the Jews in Jewish territory
 - JC has compassion on Jews and Gentiles alike
 - Has compassion on men and women alike
 - Adults and children alike
 - Dirty and clean alike
 - Churched and unchurched alike
- JC went to the outsiders – those considered unclean
 - He went to them
 - He stepped into their region...where they lived
 - He did that for us...when he stepped down into time
 - JC left his Father's throne to come and minister to outsiders like us
 - We were not a part of God's family
 - But, now we are
 - JC came to show mercy to dirty, unclean people like us...Adam and Eve
 - He died in our place so we wouldn't have to
 - He took our punishment on himself so we would know God's mercy
 - He came bringing the HS so that we could cry out, "Lord, help me"

- It's only b/c of him that we can cry out for salvation

6) CONCL

- Who does our culture think are unclean/dirty?
- Who do church-goers often view as unclean/dirty...as outsiders?
 - Might God be pushing us to reach them?
- An outsider today might be someone who smells bad, has bad teeth, wears old clothes
 - Or others are excluded based on weight or height or education or job status or the way they talk or race or ethnicity
- Rom 1:16-17 – the Gospel is for everyone
 - We're to bring the gospel to all...not making a distinction on our parts
 - We freely bring the good news of life and salvation in JC to all
- Richard Baxter