



What Would You Do For The One You Love?

2025-05-12 • PASTOR MATT ROSE

Matthew 15

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

On Mother's Day, Pastor Matt preached about a mother who would not be turned away. The Canaanite woman in Matthew 15 crossed every social line, nationality, religion, and gender, to get to Jesus for her daughter's sake. Jesus's first response was silence. His second sounded like a refusal. She answered with wit instead of retreat: even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table. Jesus called her faith great. Pastor Matt asked three questions: would you break protocol, would you name your problem specifically, and would you stay persistent? Then he turned it around. God moved that same way toward us, all the way to a cross and a tomb. Does Jesus get that kind of devotion back?

To get started

- What is the most determined thing you have ever seen a parent do for a child?

Looking back at the message

Jesus's words to her are hard. Do not pretend otherwise.

- 1 Jesus's first response to this desperate mother is silence, and his second sounds harsh. How did you react to that?
- 2 When Jesus's answer sounds like a refusal, she answers with wit instead of retreating. What does that response show about her faith?
- 3 Pastor Matt said many of us have never articulated what we are actually asking God for. Is that true of you? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Matthew 15:21-28 aloud. Note that Matthew calls her a Canaanite.

- 4 Read Matthew 15:22. What exactly does she say to Jesus? Notice how specific her request is.
- 5 Matthew calls her a Canaanite, the ancient enemy nation, rather than using the current term the way Mark does. What is Matthew signaling with that word?
- 6 Read verse 27. Jesus uses the image of bread and dogs, and she takes his image and turns it. What does she say?
- 7 Read verse 28. What exactly does Jesus commend about her?

Bringing it home

Specificity in prayer is the most practical takeaway. Land there.

- 8 What would it look like to bring God something specific rather than a general request?
- 9 Where have you stopped asking because the first answer was silence?
- 10 What protocol would you break for someone you love? Now the harder question: would you break one for God?
- 11 What are you actually asking God for right now? OPTIONAL

The group together

She was an outsider on every count and got commended. Keep that in view.

- 12 This woman was an outsider three times over, and Jesus commends her faith above anyone's in Israel. What does that say to us about who has great faith?
- 13 How could this group be persistent on someone's behalf over a long stretch of time?
- 14 Who would you keep asking for, if you decided to?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is the one specific thing you would bring to God this week if you named it plainly?

You might pray about

- For parents carrying something for a child
- For persistence when the first answer is silence
- For clarity about what we are actually asking
- For devotion returned to the one who gave everything