

Week 6 – Book of Matthew – Level 2

1. Why do you think this story was so important to the early Church and to the Gospel account of Jesus? This was a story about the House of Israel and Jesus who came to them, first because they knew the law, but he would also save anyone else who would believe. I think the children's bread represented the house of Israel and the law, the crumbs were the gentiles. Not in a bad way, but the Jewish people knew this from reading the Torah.
2. How do the accounts differ? Do these differences take away from the overall meaning of the story? If that in different parts of the story, either Matthew would expound on something or Mark would. Matthew called the woman a Canaanite, but Mark said Greek. Honestly, I think that doesn't really matter and not sure why the two distinctions. But in Mark he says that Jesus didn't want anyone to know he was around, that is not mentioned in Matthew. Matthew talked about the disciples saying to send her away, and Mark makes no mention of that. In Matthew it talks about the woman having great faith, but in Mark it was just implied. Overall nothing changes in the story the meaning is still the same.
3. What is the point Mark is trying to make? What do you think is the message Matthew is trying to get across? I don't think there is a different message for Matthew and Mark. Both are saying having faith that Jesus can do something can happen for anyone. Yes the Jews knew the law and knew that the Messiah was coming, but to have faith when you knew nothing but other gods is great faith. This woman took a chance on Jesus and what she had heard. She obviously knew that her gods couldn't take care of the demon, but she believed what she had heard about Jesus and was ready on faith to believe he could remove the demon from her daughter. She now became part of the household the Jewish family belonged in because of her belief.

(2) Story of the boy with demon from the perspective of Peter – Oh my, I can't believe I was on that mountain with Jesus, what an awesome sight to see. Was that Moses and Elijah on each side of Jesus, look at how he was glowing. What who was speaking, was that God himself talking about Jesus, yes, Lord we will listen to him, the noise was earth shattering, I dropped to my knees in fear. But, Jesus softly says, arise do not be afraid, when I looked up all I saw was Jesus. Jesus told I not to tell anyone of what we say. I heard that before the Son of Man was risen from the dead, that Elijah must come first, but Jesus said Elijah has already come, could that have been John the Baptist. I know Jesus is the Messiah, but we will not allow anyone to hurt, him I must let Jesus know this. What he called me Satan, He says that I am thinking as the world. I have walked with him, we try to heal the boy with a demon and it didn't work. I don't understand why, Oh, but Jesus did just what we tried to do, why couldn't we do it. He's telling me I have to have faith as a mustard seed, that if I do nothing is impossible, my belief was not strong enough. Oh how I long to be able to do what Jesus did. I must no go into fasting and prayer in order to prepare for what is coming next.