

WHO DOES GOD LOVE?

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - BROWNSVILLE, TX

MARK 7:24-30 JESUS LEFT THAT PLACE AND WENT TO THE VICINITY OF TYRE. HE ENTERED A HOUSE AND DID NOT WANT ANYONE TO KNOW IT; YET HE COULD NOT KEEP HIS PRESENCE SECRET. ²⁵IN FACT, AS SOON AS SHE HEARD ABOUT HIM, A WOMAN WHOSE LITTLE DAUGHTER WAS POSSESSED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT CAME AND FELL AT HIS FEET. ²⁶THE WOMAN WAS A GREEK, BORN IN SYRIAN PHOENICIA. SHE BEGGED JESUS TO DRIVE THE DEMON OUT OF HER DAUGHTER. ²⁷"**FIRST LET THE CHILDREN EAT ALL THEY WANT,**" HE TOLD HER, "**FOR IT IS NOT RIGHT TO TAKE THE CHILDREN'S BREAD AND TOSS IT TO THEIR DOGS.**" ²⁸"YES, LORD," SHE REPLIED, "BUT EVEN THE DOGS UNDER THE TABLE EAT THE CHILDREN'S CRUMBS." ²⁹THEN HE TOLD HER, "**FOR SUCH A REPLY, YOU MAY GO; THE DEMON HAS LEFT YOUR DAUGHTER.**" ³⁰SHE WENT HOME AND FOUND HER CHILD LYING ON THE BED, AND THE DEMON GONE.

SERMON

JESUS WAS TIRED, HE FELT A NEED TO GET AWAY AND BE WITH THE FATHER. HE WENT NORTH OUT OF ISRAEL INTO THE LAND OF THE GENTILES. BUT JESUS WAS KNOWN THRU OUT THE REGION.. IN THE COUNTRY THAT HE WENT INTO THERE WAS A MOTHER WHO HAD A DAUGHTER THAT WAS IN NEED OF HELP. SHE HAD PROBABLY DONE MANY DIFFERENT THINGS TO HELP HER DAUGHTER, BUT NOTHING WORKED. WHEN SHE HEARD THAT THERE WAS A MAN WHO COULD HELP, SHE MOST LIKELY GOT VERY EXCITED. MUCH LIKE WHAT WE WOULD DO TODAY WHEN WE HEAR OF A NEW PILL OR A NEW TREATMENT. BUT SHE FOUND THAT SHE HAD ANOTHER PROBLEM, NO ONE KNEW WHERE HE WAS. THE WORD OF GOD MAKES IT CLEAR, **PROVERBS 8:17** I LOVE THOSE WHO LOVE ME, AND THOSE WHO SEEK ME FIND ME.

THIS WOMAN WENT LOOKING FOR JESUS AND SHE DID FIND HIM. WHEN SHE CAME TO HIM SHE FELL AT HIS FEET.

EVERY DETAIL OF SCRIPTURE IS IMPORTANT.

WE ARE TOLD THIS WAS A GREEK WOMAN, THE INTELLECTUALS OF THEIR TIME. SHE HAD A DAUGHTER THAT WAS IN NEED OF HELP.

SHE MADE HER CASE. SHE STATED, I HAVE A DAUGHTER WITH AN EVIL SPIRIT, I NEED YOU TO CAST IT OUT.

THERE ARE TWO TEACHINGS OF JESUS THAT WE NEED TO LOOK AT.

JESUS READING FROM ISAIAH LUKE 4:16-21 ¹⁸"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS ON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM FREEDOM FOR THE PRISONERS AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT FOR THE BLIND, TO RELEASE THE OPPRESSED, ¹⁹ TO PROCLAIM THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR." ²⁰THEN HE ROLLED UP THE SCROLL, GAVE IT BACK TO THE ATTENDANT AND SAT DOWN. THE EYES OF EVERYONE IN THE SYNAGOGUE WERE FASTENED ON HIM, ²¹AND HE BEGAN TEACHING BY SAYING TO THEM, "TODAY THIS SCRIPTURE IS FULFILLED IN YOUR HEARING." AND IN SCRIPTURE HE DECLARED A NUMBER OF TIMES THAT HE IS THE BREAD OF LIFE. NOW HEAR WHAT JESUS HAD TO SAY TO THIS GENTILE WOMAN. ²⁷"FIRST LET THE CHILDREN EAT ALL THEY WANT, FOR IT IS NOT RIGHT TO TAKE THE CHILDREN'S BREAD AND TOSS IT TO THEIR DOGS".

THE JEWS WERE THE FIRST CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM, THIS BREAD HERE REFERS TO THE BENEFITS THAT THE MESSIAH WAS TO BRING TO THEM, WHICH INCLUDED SALVATION FOR THE BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT - SALVATION FROM SIN, SICKNESS, DEMONS, AND SATANIC POWERS. WE CAN SEE ALL THIS IN THE MIRACLES THAT JESUS PERFORMED. AS SEEN ABOVE THESE ARE FAMILY RIGHTS. CHILDREN CAN HAVE THE WHOLE LOAF OF BREAD. IT WAS NOT GENERALLY FOR THE GENTILES AT THAT TIME, THOSE, HERE, HE CALLS DOGS.

THE WOMAN ACKNOWLEDGED HER POSITION AS UNDESERVING AND WITHOUT LEGAL COVENANT RIGHT TO THE CHILDREN'S BREAD, AND YET SHE USED THE LORD'S OWN WORDS CONCERNING DOGS AS GROUNDS FOR THE DELIVERANCE.

SHE IS GOING TO USE HER INTELLECT, THE THING THAT SHE HAS, TO GET WHAT SHE WANTS. EVEN DOGS HAVE SOME RIGHTS- RIGHTS TO THE CRUMBS THAT FALL ON THE FLOOR. THE DOGS WILL EAT THEM THERE OR WAIT UNTIL THE MASTER THROWS THEM AWAY AND THEN THEY CAN GET TO THEM.

AS TAUGHT BY OTHER EVENTS, THE CHILDREN HAVE ALL THE BREAD THEY WANT AND MORE. SO THIS WOMAN CLAIMED THE SCRAPS FOR HER DAUGHTER AND WON HER CASE. SHE DID NOT WANT THE WHOLE LOAF, ALL THE BENEFITS, SHE JUST WANTED ENOUGH OF

THE BREAD TO FREE HER DAUGHTER.

CHRIST COULD NOT TURN DOWN SUCH FAITH BASED UPON SUCH CLAIMS. IF SHE GOT HELP ON THESE GROUNDS, CERTAINLY THE CHILDREN OF THE NEW AND BETTER COVENANT CAN STILL GET THE THINGS THEY NEED IN THEIR LIVES FROM THE BREAD.

ALL BELIEVERS ARE PROMISED WHAT THEY WANT, BUT WHAT THEY RECEIVE IS DETERMINED BY THEIR FAITH.

JESUS TEACHING, SAID, **MATTHEW 21:22** IF YOU BELIEVE, YOU WILL RECEIVE WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR IN PRAYER."

THIS WAS AN INTELLECTUAL CONVERSATION WITH THE LORD, DO WE HAVE MATURE CHILDREN OF GOD THAT KNOW THE TERMS AND THE ITEMS OF THE NEW COVENANT? WHEN JESUS WAS TWELVE YEARS OLD, WE SEE HIM IN THE TEMPLE AMAZING THE SCHOLARS WITH HIS KNOWLEDGE, BUT STILL IT SAYS THAT HE CONTINUED TO GROW IN KNOWLEDGE. SHOULD WE WHO ARE BORN AS NEW BORN BABIES INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD CONTINUE TO LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHILD OF GOD?

I AM SURE THAT WHEN A BOY OR GIRL DECIDES TO PLAY T-BALL THERE IS A LOT TO LEARN. WHAT IS A HIT, RUN, OUT, INNING, FIRST BASE, RIGHT FIELD, SHORT STOP, AND ON AND ON IT GOES. EVENTUALLY, WHO ARE THE ASTROS, THE RANGERS, WHAT IS A WORLD SERIES.

DO WE KNOW WHO OUR EIGHT YEAR OLDS SOCCER COACHES ARE AND WHAT THEY DO, AND NOT KNOW THE LEADERS OF OUR CHURCH AND WHAT ROLES THEY PLAY.

JESUS SAID THAT HE IS THE BREAD OF LIFE - WE KNOW TO BENEFIT FROM BREAD IT MUST BE CHEWED AND TAKEN INTO THE BODY. . HERE ARE SOME OF THE TERMS AND ITEMS THAT JESUS HAS PROVIDED TO THE CHILDREN OF GOD.

1. ADOPTION - A CHANGE OF FAMILY, A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.
2. ASSURANCE - A CHANGE OF SECURITY, A NEW COVENANT WITH GOD.
3. BAPTISM IN CHRIST - A CHANGE OF ELEMENTS, A NEW BURIAL IN GOD.
4. BLOOD - A CHANGE IN LIFE, A NEW LIFE FROM GOD.
5. CONVERSION - A CHANGE OF DIRECTION, A NEW WALK WITH GOD.
6. CONVICTION - A CHANGE IN THE SENSE OF GUILT, A NEW AWAKENING BEFORE GOD.
7. CONSECRATION - A CHANGE OF DEVOTION,. A NEW OFFERING TO GOD.
8. CREATION AND TRANSFORMATION - A CHANGE OF LIKENESS, A NEW IMAGE BEFORE

GOD.

9. CRUCIFIXION - A CHANGE OF DEATH, A NEW SUBJECTION TO GOD.
10. DELIVERANCE - A CHANGE OF BONDAGE, A NEW LIBERTY BEFORE GOD.
11. DESTINATION - A CHANGE OF DWELLING, A NEW HOME WITH GOD.
12. ELECTION - A CHANGE OF OFFICE, A NEW POSITION IN GOD.
13. FAITH - A CHANGE OF CONFIDENCE, A NEW TRUST IN GOD.
14. FOREKNOWLEDGE - A CHANGE IN REVELATION, A NEW KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.
15. FORGIVENESS - A CHANGE OF JUDGMENT, A NEW PARDON BY GOD
16. GENTLENESS - A CHANGE IN MANNER, A NEW BEHAVIOR BEFORE GOD.
17. GLORIFICATION - A CHANGE OF REALM, A NEW DOMINION WITH GOD.
18. GOODNESS - A CHANGE OF VIRTUE, A NEW HOLINESS IN GOD.
19. GRACE - A CHANGE OF FAVOR, A NEW STANDING BEFORE GOD.
20. HEALING - A CHANGE IN HEALTH, A NEW HEALTH IN GOD.
21. HEIRSHIP - A CHANGE OF FORTUNE, A NEW INHERITANCE IN GOD.
22. HOLINESS - A CHANGE IN LIVING, A NEW CONFORMITY TO GOD.
23. HUMILITY - A CHANGE OF SPIRIT, A NEW TEMPERAMENT IN GOD.
24. INSPIRATION - A CHANGE OF THOUGHTS, A NEW INFLUENCE FROM GOD.
25. JOY - A CHANGE OF EMOTION, A NEW DELIGHT IN GOD.
26. JUSTIFICATION - A CHANGE OF STATE, A NEW RIGHTEOUSNESS IN GOD.
27. LIFE - A CHANGE OF EXISTENCE, A NEW ETERNAL LIFE WITH GOD.
28. LOVE - A CHANGE OF AFFECTION, A NEW DEVOTION TO GOD
29. MEEKNESS - A CHANGE OF DISPOSITION, A NEW HUMILITY BEFORE GOD
30. MERCY - A CHANGE OF HEART, A NEW DISPOSITION IN GOD.
31. MORTIFICATION - A CHANGE OF PRACTICE, A NEW CONDUCT BEFORE GOD.
32. NEW BIRTH AND SONSHIP - A CHANGE OF PARENTS, A NEW FATHER IN GOD.
33. PEACE - A CHANGE IN MIND, A NEW TRANQUILITY IN GOD
34. POWER - A CHANGE IN AUTHORITY, A NEW POWER IN GOD.
35. PRAYER - A CHANGE OF COMMUNICATION, A NEW APPROACH TO GOD.
36. PREDESTINATION - A CHANGE OF DECREE, A NEW DESTINY IN GOD.
37. PROPITIATION - A CHANGE OF CLOTHING, A NEW COVERING OF SINS BEFORE GOD.
38. PROVIDENCE - A CHANGE OF SUPPLY, A NEW PROVISION IN GOD.

39. RANSOM - A CHANGE FROM SLAVERY, A NEW RELEASE BY GOD.
40. RECONCILIATION - A CHANGE OF FRIENDSHIP, A NEW UNION WITH GOD.
41. REDEMPTION - A CHANGE OF OWNERS, A NEW MASTER IN GOD.
42. REGENERATION - A CHANGE OF NATURE, A NEW NATURE BEFORE GOD
43. REMISSION - A CHANGE OF SENTENCE, A NEW JUSTIFICATION BY GOD.
44. REPENTANCE - A CHANGE OF MIND, A NEW MIND ABOUT GOD
45. REPRESENTATION - A CHANGE OF AGENCY, A NEW REPRESENTATIVE BEFORE GOD.
46. RESURRECTION - A CHANGE IN SUBSTANCE, A NEW BODY GIVEN BY GOD.
47. RETRIBUTION - A CHANGE OF VENGEANCE, A NEW ATTITUDE BEFORE GOD.
48. REVELATION - A CHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE, A NEW DOCTRINE FROM GOD.
49. RIGHTEOUSNESS - A CHANGE OF ACTS, A NEW OBEDIENCE TO GOD.
50. SANCTIFICATION - A CHANGE OF SERVICE, A NEW SEPARATION UNTO GOD.
51. SOUNDNESS - A CHANGE OF CONDITION, A NEW PERFECTION IN GOD
52. SUBSTITUTION - A CHANGE OF VICTIMS, A NEW SACRIFICE TO GOD.
53. TEMPERANCE - A CHANGE TO MODERATION, A NEW SOBRIETY BEFORE GOD
54. WASHING - A CHANGE OF MORALS, A NEW CREATURE BEFORE GOD.

SEEING ALL THIS, HOW DO THE CHILDREN OF GOD, THOSE THAT HAVE FAMILY RIGHTS, LEGAL RIGHTS, PROMISED RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, DIVINE RIGHTS, AND REDEMPTIVE RIGHTS AS SEEN ABOVE RECEIVE FROM GOD?

PETER SAYS, **1 PETER 5:7** CAST ALL YOUR ANXIETY ON HIM BECAUSE HE CARES FOR YOU
JESUS TOLD THE PHARISEES, SEARCH THE SCRIPTURE, **YOU WILL SEE WHO I AM.** AND
WHEN WE SEARCH THE SCRIPTURE WE FIND THAT NOT ONE PERSON EVER WENT AWAY
FROM THE FEET OF THE LORD WITHOUT A BLESSING. SOME WILL SAY I DON'T BELIEVE
IN HEALING OR SOME OTHER THING THAT IS CLEARLY SHOWN IN THE BIBLE. I HAVE
FOUND THAT YOU SHOULD NOT BELIEVE IN THE BLESSINGS, BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE
AVAILABLE TO YOU, BUT MORE IMPORTANT BELIEVE IN THE PERSON GIVING THE
BLESSINGS.

AND ABOUT THIS PERSON, IT IS SAID, **HEBREWS 13:8** JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME
YESTERDAY AND TODAY AND FOREVER.

GOD HAS DECLARED THAT HE IS LOVE.

DO WE, WHO HAVE THE LOVE OF GOD IN US, LOVE OUR CHILDREN LESS THAN THIS

GREEK WOMAN LOVED HER CHILD, AND WANT LESS FOR THEM? I THINK NOT!
DO WE THINK GOD LOVES US, HIS CHILDREN, LESS THAN HE LOVED THIS GREEK
WOMAN'S DAUGHTER. WOULD HE DO MORE FOR THAT CHILD THAN US? I THINK NOT.
MAYBE SOME THINK THAT JESUS LOVED THIS GREEK WOMAN MORE THAN HE LOVES A
PARENT TODAY. THAT HE WAS MORE WILLING TO HELP HER THAN A PARENT TODAY. I
THINK NOT.

JESUS IS NOT HIDDEN FROM US, WE KNOW WHERE HE IS, AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE
FATHER.

HE HAS MADE IT CLEAR HOW WE ARE TO COME TO HIM.

HEBREWS 11:6 AND WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD, BECAUSE
ANYONE WHO COMES TO HIM MUST BELIEVE THAT HE EXISTS AND THAT HE REWARDS
THOSE WHO EARNESTLY SEEK HIM.

AGAIN JESUS HAS MADE IT CLEAR WHY HE CAME TO EARTH, **JOHN 10:10** I [JESUS]
HAVE COME THAT THEY [THE CHILDREN OF GOD] MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT TO THE
FULL.

THIS GREEK WOMAN HAS SHOWN US HOW TO RECEIVE FROM GOD. SEEK HIM UNTIL WE
FIND HIM, HAVE FAITH THAT WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR OTHERS, ALL THOSE IN THE PAST,
HE WILL DO FOR US. GOD RESPONDED TO ALL THOSE PEOPLE IN LOVE, AND MET THEIR
NEED, WILL HE TREAT US DIFFERENT? **LUKE 11:9** "SO I [JESUS] SAY TO YOU: ASK AND
IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU; SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND; KNOCK AND THE DOOR WILL BE
OPENED TO YOU.

WILL WE PUT OUR LIVES IN HIS HANDS, MAKE HIM THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN OUR
LIVES OR WILL WE IGNORE HIM, THINKING THAT TODAY HE DOES NOT HAVE THE POWER
TO MAKE OUR LIVES BETTER, OR MAYBE THINKING, TODAY, HE HAS THE POWER BUT
HE DOES NOT CARE ENOUGH TO GET INVOLVED.

WHAT WILL WE DO WITH OUR LIVES?

THE CHOICE IS OURS.