

Are the Crumbs Enough?

Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.
Matthew 15.27

We need to take note of the fact that the Gospel of Matthew was written by a Jew for Jews. Jesus is presented by Matthew as a “_____ Moses” who came “not to abolish the Law or the prophets but to fulfill them” (Matthew 5.17).

The Canaanite woman had _____ strikes against her before she ever shouted for Jesus' help: first, she was a woman, and second, she was a Canaanite. So, any faithful Jew reading this story in Matthew's Gospel would have expected Jesus to ignore the woman when she shouted out to Him.

The woman knew her status; she wasn't surprised by Jesus' reaction to her. And it gets worse before it gets better, for _____ wasn't put off, but became even more bold in her response to Jesus' dismissal.

This is where it gets worse, for Jesus _____ her saying, *It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.* Imagine making such a derogatory comment about an ethnic group in our culture today! But at that time and in that place, everyone reading the story was quite satisfied that she got put in her place, her rightful place, a woman, and a Canaanite woman at that!

Even in the face of humiliation she still honored Jesus by addressing Him as _____!
Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table. If you were a first century Jew reading this story in Matthew's Gospel you would have been stopped in your tracks with a huge paradigm shift in the making, a profound change in world-view was about to happen, unless of course, you had the hardest of hearts.

The faith of Christ is about profound shifts in worldview until “all the skins of the onion are peeled away” revealing a heart that finally _____ to God's purpose as a result of encountering a crucified and risen Lord.

Jesus met His own people where they were in their attitude toward women and gentiles, then He brought them to _____ of the water of life when He said, *Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.*

Ultimately life in Christ is about _____ all that we have and all that we are to Jesus, and Jesus will not spare us the pain to bring us to that place.

"_____ the crumbs enough?"

I believed in Jesus as a small child with a spiritual awakening occurring when I was a young adult. With that awakening, like the Canaanite woman, the crumbs were enough, because it was so much more than what I had before that awakening. But now, with all the years that have passed, and with all the awakenings that I have had, I know we should never _____ for the crumbs. The crumbs are only the beginning...

The question I leave you with this morning is, "Are the crumbs enough?" The _____
of this congregation rests on your answer to that question!