

Amazing Faith!

Text: [Matthew 15:21-39](#)

Introduction:

After all things we've seen and heard in the book of Matthew

- Jesus' authoritative preaching
- Jesus' wonderful miracles: healing of the sick, lame or blind
- Jesus' mighty miracles: Walking on the water, Calming the storm, Feeding 5000

We come to the 2nd half of Matthew 15 and see 3 different responses to Him

It shouldn't surprise us, though. People who witness accidents or crimes often see different things! It is noticeable in the Gospels as well. Some of the same things are written, but some things are different.

So it is with faith. Let me clarify any misunderstanding. Paul said in [Ephesians 4:5](#) *There is one faith*. That is true: [Romans 3:4](#) *"let God be true but every man a liar."* So, it is the same truth, but some have more trouble believing the truth than do others. That's understandable and expected!

[Matthew 15:21-39](#) is an example of that. What may be unexpected is who it is that has the higher levels of faith as opposed to those who have smaller amounts of faith. Let's read our text:

1. A Great Faith

The Canaanite Woman Who's Daughter Was Demon Possessed!

[Matthew 15:21-28](#)

- She was not a Jew
 - She had no hope of blessing from the Jewish healer
- [Ephesians 2:12](#) that at that time you were **without** Christ, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel and **strangers** from the covenants of promise, having **no** hope and **without** God in the world.
- She was told such was the case and begged for help anyway!
 - She believed she was blessed just by being in proximity to God's people!
 - She accepted the position of little a dog. The Proud would have refused.
 - She accepted a crumb. The Proud would have rejected it.
 - She was complimented with the saying "Great Faith!"

Jesus Complimented Only One Other Person This Way:

[Matthew 8:5-13](#)

A (Roman) Centurion who had a dying servant.

Notice that neither of these were Jews! Jesus emphasized this idea in Luke.

[Luke 4:25-27](#)

But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. [1 Kings 17:18-19](#) And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian. [2 Kings 4:28](#)

After those comments, they intended to throw Jesus over a cliff! PRIDE blinded them & ruins faith!

2. Enough Faith

Great Multitudes Came To Him: Why?

[Matthew 15:29-31](#)

These knew something was happening, were not sure why or how, but they knew they wanted to participate in it!

The Multitudes Marveled: Why?

They came specifically to have their family healed and when Jesus healed them they marveled! How Ironic! Did they believe or did they not? They had just enough faith to get them to Jesus.

[Matthew 17:20](#)

...if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

The Multitudes Glorified The God Of Israel: Good Response!

Whatever amount of faith they had, they knew whom to thank!

[James 1:17](#)

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Notice: These Were Jews Who Had Training All Their Lives About The Coming Messiah

[John 1:11-12](#)

He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

3. Little Faith

A Mimic Miracle—Is This Déjà Vu?

[Matthew 15:32-39](#)

Feeding 4000

- The previous miraculous feeding was 5000 [Matthew 14:13-21](#)
- The previous miraculous food items was 5 loaves and 2 fish
- The previous miraculous gathering was 12 baskets of fragments
- Obviously it is a different event.

If These Events Are Chronological, I Have A Few Questions.

- Why is the miracle less efficient? More fish caused less food! (*Irrelevant? Take note that after this miracle there are only 2 or 3 other miracles mentioned until the resurrection!*)
- Why did the disciples respond the same way? Had they forgotten the previous feeding?

It Is Apparent That Proximity To Jesus Determines Neither Quantity Nor Quality Of Faith!

Conclusion:

The whole lesson can probably be summed up in another story Jesus told:

[Luke 7:40-43](#)

And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it." "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?" Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged."

Do you really trust Jesus? If not maybe it is because you do not really appreciate what he did!

He died in your place! He bore your sins! He took your punishment! Will you come to Him now?

"Why do you wait? Arise and be baptized washing away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord!"