

General Session II Notes

Event: *The Awakening Conference Workshop*

Message: Radical Faith

Speaker: Pastor C. Ramsey



Scriptural Reference: St. Matthew 15:21-28

Introduction: The word of the Lord is so wonderful that it is applicable to every season of life. Let us journey together, as we explore the direction the Lord provided to one woman...who chose to **STAY FOCUSED** even during difficult situation.

The Woman: A Syrophenician Woman. Name unknown. Marital status unknown. Not Jewish, but we do know she **HAS RADICAL FAITH!**

OBSERVATION: When we face difficulty in our lives, what we truly believe about the Lord will be tested on every level.

- Faith is defined in Hebrews 11:1 (NLT) is defined as “Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.
- Faith may also be defined as trust, confidence and belief in God, God’s word and God’s way of doing things.
- **Radical Faith is having COMPLETE trust, confidence and belief in God, His word and His way of doing things NO MATTER how discouraging, disappointing or devastating a season become RADICAL...**

Verse: Matt. 15:22 The woman said “Have mercy on me, Oh Lord...”

Point One: **Radical Faith requires DISCERNMENT**

- Discernment: The ability to recognize right from wrong. The ability to identify good from evil.
- Discernment: The ability to distinguish or recognize the moral and Godly implications of different situations and the ability to identify and implement a Godly course of action.
- Read: Proverbs 3:5-6, James 1:5, Proverbs 1:7, Eph. 5:6-10, I John 5:1, Romans 12:2

Discernment! The woman in verse 22 DISCERNED Jesus was the Lord. She recognized the importance of being in the presence of the Lord.

Point Two: **Divine Opportunities.**

- Divine Opportunities are occasions in which the Lord supernaturally intervenes on our behalf!
- Divine Opportunities are USUALLY interwoven between OPPOSITION and OBSTACLES or distressing times.

Verse 23: The disciples told Jesus to send her away! The woman did not respond to the disciples.

The disciples in this text were the OPPOSITION. They wanted the woman to leave.

Note: **Discernment is necessary to identify the right course of action in the face of opposition**

Intent of opposition: to stop you from obtaining what you desire!

Effect of opposition can be to become DISTRACTED

Distracted Christ follows open the door of their spirit to: fear, frustration, and offense.

- Scripture: II Corinthians 10:4 “We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly ones...”
- Scripture: Hebrews 12:1 “...let us strip off every weight that slows us down...”

Radical Faith remains focused on the LORD and the Lord’s way of doing things

Verse 22: Jesus did not say a word when the woman asked for mercy. (When Jesus is silent, you stay focus and don’t talk yourself out of your blessing! (Fearful, Frustrated and Offended people TALK too much about everything but the Lord! Do not Yield to this temptation!!

Verse 24: Jesus tells the woman. (You are not on my agenda today) But the woman RECOGNIZED/DISCERNED Jesus may didn’t have her on His agenda, but he was still was taking time to talk to her. (AH-HA moment!!)

Her response...She Worshipped! **Radical Faith understands the value of WORSHIP**

Her response was that she listened carefully to what Jesus had to say! **Radical Faith focuses on the Word of God!** She listened to Jesus as intently as she made her request Jesus. **Radical Faith values PRAYER:** in verse 26 Jesus told the woman it was not proper to give the children's bread to dogs.

Radical Faith, Worships the Lord at all times.

Finally, Jesus told the woman what Jewish custom states is not proper! **Her response was that's true.**

Radical Faith believers know Jesus does not violate the word of God in order to bless them

Radical Faith believers know the Lord has many ways to Bless them even if it requires Blessing them in a manner than has never been done before!!

Radical Faith Christ Followers are discerning, focused on God's Word, pray fervently, worship without restraint.

Because of Radical Faith the Grace of the Lord will always rescue, set free and make a way for Radical Faith believers