

“and she begged him to cast out the demon from her daughter. Since she was a Gentile, born in Syrian Phoenicia, Jesus told her, “First I should feed the children—my own family, the Jews. It isn’t right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs.” She replied, “That’s true, Lord, but even the dogs under the table are allowed to eat the scraps from the children’s plates.” Mark 7:26-28 NLT

## lectio // Mark 7:24-30

When you’re on mission and come across someone with extraordinary faith. Jesus wanted to keep a low profile, so he didn’t want word getting out where he was staying for the night. But secrets in small neighborhoods are impossible to keep. I always wondered what it would be like for Jesus to spend the night at my house. A woman finds him and begs him to help her. She’s probably not a local, so I wonder how she managed to find out where Jesus was and convinced the homeowner to let her see him. Her daughter had a demon. My own theory is this: whenever you find a demon in a child you know that adults have failed to protect them and in fact have made them vulnerable by introducing evil to the house. Bad things happen when adults fail to be protectors and become co-conspirators in harming a child. But this Syrian woman wanted to take responsibility and undo the damage that had been perpetrated on her child. And she was smart about it. Do you people who are both bold and brainy? She not only would not take “no” for an answer, she somehow figured out who Jesus was and his mission for being here. Plus, she knew all about Jewish culture and her place as a gentile (outsider). She did not hesitate when she got the opportunity to make her ask! Are you prepared to be brave and brainy enough to do your research and know what you want to say if opportunity should arise. Those moments are rare and if you wait to be prepared when you come upon them, you won’t know who you’re talking to, what THEIR mission is and where you stand in terms of their culture, capacity and capability. This woman had a plan BEFORE she met Jesus, BEFORE she would make the ask of a lifetime! Like the woman at the well, she was not dissuaded or distracted by Jesus words of truth, in fact, she embraced it! Jesus was on mission and at that moment, she was NOT that mission. But Jesus, also knowing the cultural nuances of position and priority saw something immediately - her faith, her love and commitment for her daughter. And he was again moved by this woman’s bravery and compassion on her innocent child. Her comment, “all I need... is scraps!” I don’t need a seat at the table or the full buffet of what the Jews had going on with their special relationship with God - I just need some leftovers! Boom, Jesus tells her it is already done. Prayer answered.

Dad,

I am just speechless at the power of this story. I had no status, no privilege, no pedigree - but all I needed was scraps of your grace, the leftovers that those special classes of good or righteous folks didn’t want. And it was enough! Thank you.

**contemplatio**

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root