

The Battle Between Culture & Church

Defining the real issues

Mark 7:9-23
1 Samuel 15:22-23, Isaiah 1:11-17, Jeremiah 7:22-23, Hosea 6:6, Amos 5:21-27

Legalism: Elevating **human traditions** to the level of **God's law**.

Hypocrisy: Following the **rules** but missing the **heart of God**.

Today's Application: We are in opposition to God anytime we put our **cultural beliefs** ahead of **God's Word**.

Jesus beaten at his own game?

Mark 7:24-30, Matthew 15:21-28

- ▶ God's Word will always lead to either our **offense** or **obedience**.
- ▶ Jesus once again sets up **obstacles** to produce **faith** & **humility**, and for us to meet God on **his terms**.
- ▶ Jesus was looking for a heart that says "I'm not here because I'm **good**, I'm here because you are **God!**"

Food for Thought for the week of June 2, 2019

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. In this weekend's message we heard the story of a woman who faced major obstacles but overcame them by faith. Read through the passage again in both Mark 7:24-30 and Matthew 15:21-28 and then answer the following questions:

Mark 7:24-30 - ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. ²⁶ The 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 the dogs." ²⁸ "Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Matthew 15:21-28 - ²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly." ²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." ²⁵ The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. ²⁶ He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." ²⁷ "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." ²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

What information is the same and what is different between the two passages?

What obstacles do you see in her...

...Situation?

...Nationality?

...Gender?

...Interaction with the disciples?

In light of the sermon and the two passages above, what are some of the takeaways from this story in regards to our faith?

Can you think of any ways your faith has been tested that has led to personal growth?

2. "The Faith of the Centurion" is another example of someone who Jesus said had great faith. As you read through the story in Matthew 8:5-13 and Luke 7:1-10, why do you think Jesus "marveled" at his faith?

Matthew 8:5-13 - ⁵ When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. ⁶ "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly." ⁷ Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?" ⁸ The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. ¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.

Luke 7:1-10 - When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. ² There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. ³ The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, ⁵ because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." ⁶ So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. ⁷ That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." ⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." ¹⁰ Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

If Jesus were to look at your faith, what do you think his response would be?

Can you think of any ways you may want to focus on growing your faith in the next week?