

Bible Study in Matthew 15 21-28
For Home Groups in the week commencing 28th March 2011.

Welcome.

Q: What was the last thing you wanted very much?

Word.

*(Please read **Matthew 15:21-28**).*

In v21 Jesus leaves his ministry amongst the Jews to get some rest from the incessant demands upon him (see Mark 7v24).

Q: Have you ever felt the demands upon you have been overwhelming? What sort of things do you do to get refreshment? What happens to your relationship with God at these times?

Q: In v21 a mother comes to Jesus and falls at his feet. What barriers do you think she had to overcome? What beliefs helped her overcome them?

In v22-23 she **continues** to beg for Jesus to help her even though he doesn't respond.

Q: How do you think she must have felt?

Q: How did the disciples respond?

Q: Why do you think Jesus was keeping quiet?(Clearly if he had wanted her to go away he could/would have said something).

Q: What things can Jesus give the world that it really needs?

Q: Contrast the way this woman asked and to whom this woman went to fulfil her needs, and the way the world asks and to what/whom it goes to fulfil its needs.

Jesus answers v24-26 "it's not right to take the children's bread and give it to their puppies".

Q: What is Jesus trying to teach this woman about his mission and her place?

Q: Contrast her understanding of self before Jesus and our culture of "human rights and equality".

Q: There are two opposite errors which are both sins: to believe that we deserve to go to heaven; and to believe that God cannot love us. What makes both of these ideas wrong?

We need to understand our worth in comparison to God (in ourselves: we are nothing) and also our worth in God (he loves us more than life).

Q: What difference does this make in our attitude towards ourselves, others and God?