

Why Jesus Is the Answer in Time of Crisis (Even Though It May Seem He Is Not)

- I. Jesus is the answer because He reaches out to all**
 - A. Including non-Jewish people, Matthew 15:21; 2:1-12; 8:5-13; 27:54; 28:19
 - B. Including Canaanites, Matthew 15:22; Deuteronomy 7:1-26
 - C. Including women, Matthew 15:22; Luke 7:11-17, 36-50; 8:43-48... See bonus outline below.
 - D. Including you! Matthew 11:28; John 7:37-38; Revelation 21:6

- II. Jesus is the answer because He is compassionate, Matt 15:28; contrast 15:23; 14:15; 19:13**

- III. Jesus is the answer because He is powerful**
 - A. Over disease, Matthew 15:28
 - B. Over demons, Matthew 15:22
 - C. Over desperation, Matthew 15:22
 - D. Over delay, Matt 15:28; Hebrews 11:1-40; 10:39; Mark 5:25-26; 5:21-24, 35-43; John 11:21

- IV. Jesus is the answer because He is wise**
 - A. With a lesson for His enemies, Matthew 15:21, compare 15:1-20
 - B. With a lesson for the disciples, Matthew 15:23
 - C. With a lesson for the woman, Matthew 15:22-28

- V. Jesus is the answer especially...**
 - A. When you recognize Jesus' power and provision, Matthew 15:27-28; Luke 1:37; Romans 8:31-32; Ephesians 3:20
 - B. When you humbly accept God's view of who you are, Matthew 15:22, 25, 27; Mark 7:25; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 7:18; 8:7-8; Ephesians 2:1-3; 4:17-19, 22
 - C. When you resist the temptation to be resentful, Matthew 15:23, 24, 26
 - D. When you understand your desperate need for Jesus, Matt 15:22, 23, 25, 27; Mark 10:47-52
 - E. When you continue to believe in spite of obstacles, Matt 15:22-28; Hebrews 11:1-40; 10:39

Womenkind: How Did Jesus Relate to Women in the Gospels?

The woman at the well, John 4:3-42

The widow of Nain, Luke 7:11-17

The unnamed sinful woman, Luke 7:36-50

The timid woman who touched His garment, Mark 5:25-34

Mary and Martha, Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-44

The woman with a bent back, Luke 13:10-17

The Canaanite woman, Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

Martha's sister Mary again, John 12:2-11; Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9

The widow who had an offering, Luke 21:1-4

The weeping women of Jerusalem, Luke 23:27-31

His mom, Luke 2:41-52; Mark 3:31-35; John 2:1-11; 19:26-27

Mary Magdalene, Luke 8:2; John 20:11-18

Who were the first witnesses of the resurrection? Luke 24:1-11

See also Mark 1:30-31; Luke 8:1-3; 18:1-8; 23:55-56; John 8:1-11

Can you think of others?

A Partial List of Characters in the Gospels Who Are Said to Have Faith

Like those mentioned in Hebrews 11, the following people demonstrated faith in different ways. How?

Those who carried the paralytic, Mark 2:5; Luke 5:20; Matthew 9:2 (and the paralytic also?)

The centurion with the ill servant, Matthew 8:10; Luke 7:9

A sinful woman, Luke 7:50

The woman with the hemorrhage, Mark 5:34; Luke 8:48; Matthew 9:22

Two blind men, Matthew 9:29

The Canaanite woman, Matthew 15:28

The father of the demon-possessed boy, Mark 9:23-24

The tenth leper, Luke 17:19

Blind Bartimeus, Mark 10:52; Luke 18:42

What qualities do they show that you should imitate?

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus reached out to Gentiles, Canaanites and women. What other neglected groups did Jesus reach out to? What groups are neglected by churches today? What can you do to reach them?
2. The sermon mentioned three of the times when the disciples wanted to send people away. In addition to Matthew 15:23, what were the two other times (see point II)? What were the disciples' priorities in those situations? What was wrong with the disciples' priorities in each case? Are Christians today, like the disciples, ever mistaken about priorities, and then neglect God's priorities as a result? When? Are Christians today ever harsh toward others because they confuse God's priorities? When? When have you convinced yourself that your priorities were right when they were not?
3. Consider the "Womenkind" outline below the sermon outline. Why are so many examples of Jesus' interactions with women recorded in the Gospels? In general, how did Jesus treat women? Did Jesus respond differently to women than He did to men? Did Jesus correct women differently than He did men?
4. Jesus appears at the beginning of this passage to be indifferent, then rude and bigoted. How did He later show that He was not? Can you share a time when you thought that God was indifferent to you, or treating you harshly, and then you later found that He was not at all? What purpose did He have in letting you misunderstand Him for a time?
5. Would the woman in Matthew 15 have been justified in resenting Jesus's apparently indifferent and harsh responses (15:23a, 24, 26)? In what ways was her response better than being resentful?
6. What actions and words show that the woman was desperate? When have you called on the Lord in desperation? What happened?
7. Has there ever been a time in your life when delay in things working out taught you a valuable lesson?
8. Check out the five subpoints under the last main point of the message. With which one do you need the most help at this time in your life? Why? Are you encountering a "crisis" now that your group can pray with you about? Is there a "Canaanite" you are seeking to reach for Jesus that this group can pray for?

Jack Littlefield currently teaches Bible and English at Los Angeles Baptist High School. A Van Nuys native, he formerly served for twenty years as a senior pastor in Southern California and Cleveland, Ohio. Jack also taught Greek for four years at Chafer Theological Seminary (Orange, California) and three years at Maranatha Bible College (Ghana, West Africa). He has been part of The Bridge Bible Fellowship family for two years and is one of the professors in our upcoming Bridge Bible Institute.