Faith of a Gentile Woman

Read Mark 7:24-30

- **24** Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know which house he was staying in, but he couldn't keep it a secret.
- **25** Right away a woman who had heard about him came and fell at his feet. Her little girl was possessed by an evil spirit,
- **26** and she begged him to cast out the demon from her daughter. Since she was a Gentile, born in Syrian Phoenicia,
- **27** 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."
- **28** She replied, "That's true, Lord, but even the dogs under the table are allowed to eat the scraps from the children's plates."
- 29 "Good answer!" he said. "Now go home, for the demon has left your daughter."
- **30** And when she arrived home, she found her little girl lying quietly in bed, and the demon was gone.

When Jesus went to Tyre, what kind of people would He expect to find there (v. 24)? Gentiles. He had left Jewish country.

When He entered a house what happened next (v. 25)? A woman came and fell at His feet.

Where was the woman from (v. 26)? Syrian Phoenicia. What religion was the woman? She was a Gentile (a Greek), i.e. not a Jew

What did the woman want? She wanted Jesus to heal her daughter by driving out the demon in her.

How did Jesus answer her (v. 27)? READ v. 27

Who are the children and the dogs? The children are the Jewish people. The dogs are non-Jewish people -- the Gentiles.

What did He mean? Jesus was a Jew. He came to minister first to the Jews (the children). He didn't have time for the Gentiles (the dogs) right now.

How did the woman respond (v. 28)? READ v. 28

What did she mean by that? She knew Jesus' first priority was to the Jews but she was asking if there were any leftovers. She would settle for crumbs. Just a tiny bit of His time and attention.

What did Jesus do next (v. 29)? He healed the daughter from a distance – she wasn't close by.

What did Jesus mean when He said "for such a reply" or "good answer?" Because you had faith in me to heal your daughter. Jesus was pleased that she believed in Him. Is Jesus pleased when we believe and trust in Him?

What did the woman find when she went home (v. 30)? The demon had left her daughter – a miracle!