

Sermon Based Discussion
Matthew 15:21-28
'Christ's Inclusion'
3/31/24

The weekly qualifier:

These questions are not meant to be answered exhaustively. The aim is to foster further discussion on God's Word which is rich, full, and inexhaustible. If you only get through one question, yet the conversation is robust and warming to your soul, well done!

1. Can you name a way in which you or others in our culture desire to be included in? What is it about the human condition that hates to be on the outside do you think?
2. What is so remarkable about the woman's declaration of who Jesus is in verse 22? As we discussed, having a Canaanite background brought with it a lot of baggage. What would be the equivalent of a Canaanite in your mind, in our church, in our culture? Why do we and others often fall in the trap of thinking our past excludes us from God's mercy?
3. We can admit, Jesus' response in verse 23 and 24 seems a little smug at first. Have there been times in your life where God has seemed silent or uninterested in your suffering? How have you responded to this kind of testing?
4. Why do we know that verse 24, Jesus' response about going only to the lost sheep of Israel, isn't the whole story? Why did Jesus come to save the lost nation of the Jewish people first? How does Jesus saying this to the disciples and not the woman influence how you read the passage?
5. We should rightly admire the resolve of this mother, pressing forward to kneel before Jesus. What is it that makes us resolve in our Christian lives? What do we see of this mother's humility?
6. Mentioned in the sermon was the disciples' bias against the mother, and that being a key reason for Jesus' public affirmation of her. What kind of bias or prejudice may we be holding onto at Lakewood church? In a moment of transparency, what kind of person would make you uncomfortable if they came to church? Pray as a group that God would bring those people and change them and you.
7. How does this passage potentially give us a fresh message for the world around us? Why should the resurrection be at the center of what we offer a needy world? Can you think of one person who feels like an outsider? Pray for them now by name, and ask God to give you an opportunity to invite them near.