



**Series:** Unexpected Messiah

**Passage** Mathew 15:21-31

**Title:** When God Does Not Answer

**Speaker:** Pastor David Menard – 11/15/2020

**Discussion Starter** – The title of this series is Unexpected Messiah. Sometimes Jesus responds to our requests in ways we find hard to understand. What are some character traits of Jesus and promises made by God that should provide comfort when we think Jesus is not listening? (As examples, see Isaiah 55:9, Jeremiah 29:11, and Romans 8:28)

### **Jesus Attempts to Rest**

- Why did Jesus travel to the region of Tyre and Sidon? How were the people of Tyre/Sidon different from the people in Jerusalem? What pressures were Jesus and the disciples facing in Israel? (See also Mark 7:24)
- How do you rest? What does God's word say about our need for rest?

### **Real Faith Provides Comfort**

- What request did the woman make of Jesus? What was Jesus' initial response? How do you react when you think that Jesus does not hear you?
- Pastor David described the life of Job. Why did God allow Job to endure the loss of his wealth, family, and health? Have you experienced difficulties in your life and you only to begin to understand its purpose at a later date in your life? Explain. What are some of the difficulties you have faced that seem to have no good purpose?
- Is it unusual, at times, to feel unheard by God? How did David respond when he felt this way? What lessons do we learn from these passages on how David engages with the LORD? How is this encouraging for us to read? (Read Psalm 13, Psalm 77:1-12).

### **A Lesson for the Disciples**

- How did the disciples respond to the woman's petition? Pastor David said that the disciples were behaving selfishly. How so?
- How did Jesus respond to the disciples request to send the woman away? (See verse 24).
- Jesus said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel". What message was Jesus giving to the disciples in this verse? As believers, do we sometimes act as though we are more valuable to Jesus than unbelievers, especially those with a very different worldview? Why do we do this?
- What insight did the woman have about Jesus' character and purpose that the disciples missed? How did Jesus' respond to her faith?

### **Jesus Heals Many**

- What spiritual insight is provided in verse 30? How are we like the lame, blind, mute, and blind?