When God is not Talking

**Read:** Matthew 15:21-28

**Text:** Matthew 15:23 “But he answered her not a word…”

Psalm 28:1 “Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me…”

**Introduction:** In this story we find a woman who felt like she was being ignored by Jesus. How do you react when someone ignores you? Have you ever felt that God was not listening to you? Have you ever prayed a prayer that got no answer? Has anyone ever called you a dog?

How would you respond to that?

Do you think that Jesus rejects her because she is a Gentile? Is her request improper? Is she unworthy of this miracle? There is a great message in this story that we must not miss. It is that God hears us and has an answer for us even if it doesn’t appear so at first. Here is how one woman responded to a speechless savior.

**I. Adoration:** vs 25 This woman has just poured out her heart to Jesus and seemingly been ignored. Her response is not what you would think. She doesn’t get mad. She doesn’t file a lawsuit. She doesn’t

Stomp off in a fit of anger. She came and worshipped Him. That will blow the mind of one who is actually ignoring you.

This lady had learned that you can’t pout your way to blessing. She knew that anger would not bring deliverance to her daughter. She knew that Jesus was a loving man. She knew that He had never refused anyone who asked and she did not expect to be the first. She knew that the Psalmist said that praise brings glory to God. (University of Wisconsin, October 1982, vs Michigan State – While their team is losing they are cheering Radio Milwaukee Brewers were beating the St Louis Cardinals in game 4 of the World Series). They could cheer because they were focused on something other than what was directly in front of them.

This woman placed her focus on the side of Jesus that she knew was true rather than the situation directly in front of her.

**II. Admits the truth:** vs. 27 She does not argue with Jesus as He charac-terizes her as a dog. She refuses to be offended and readily assents to His name calling. She responds: “Truth, Lord…” In the church today we have Christians that can’t take a good old Bible thrashing. If you call them out on their sin they will take their cushion and go find a kinder gentler church. Instead of responding with a repentant heart the people get mad and run away. Don’t get mad; get right!

You know what you were before Christ and if we are honest it wasn’t pretty. It’s what we are after we find Christ that matters. When God isn’t answering our pleas then we must understand that there are three things to consider. First we are **Flawed by a fall**. Rom. 5:12 says: “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” From the first sin, in the garden, Adam blamed God for giving him the wrong woman and we tend to blame God every time that sin defeats us. Secondly, we are **Fought by the flesh**. Gal. 5:17 says: “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other…” Every real saint of God fights with the flesh every day. Third we are **Followed by a fiend**. I Pet 5:8 tells us: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”

Every day you are being followed and it is someone far more danger-ous than ISIS. Satan himself is seeking to devour and destroy you. He never stops, he never gives up, and he has put a price on your head. (Preacher hunting & finds a can of beer in the snow). Saint of God you are being stalked by satan and he intends to hang your head above his fireplace. When God is not speaking it is easier to be distracted by the apples placed on the ground under satan’s deer stand.

**III. Admiration from Christ:** in verse 28 we read the words of Christ as He admires the faith of this woman. Jesus is awed by the extent of a gentile woman’s faith. It is the response of this woman that turned words of condemnation to words of commendation. In times of silence don’t change churches, don’t change spouses, don’t quit your ministry. Just know that He is close, that He does not have a hearing problem, and that He will speak to your problem even when He doesn’t seem to be speaking to you.

**Conclude:** The silence of God speaks volumes. It is the mature mar-riage that has a couple sitting for hours and enjoying each other in silence. Words are not needed; just each other’s presence is enough.

(Chris Christy’s mothers death).