



Both our morning and evening series in March 2025 focus on Jesus and the life of a disciple. These 3 studies follow the morning 'Adventurous faith' series thinking about the moments where we have to dare to trust him and take a risk. This 2<sup>nd</sup> session follows Steve's sermon on the 9<sup>th</sup> March asking when do we dare to share our deepest need?

**STARTER:**

- 1) Where have you seen God's fingerprints in your life this week?
- 2) Can you think of a time when you've taken a risk to share something you're thinking or feeling? If you're able to share something tonight – how did that moment go?

**Read Matthew 15:21-29**

- 3) How do you think this Canaanite woman was feeling approaching Jesus to ask for his help? Is there anything about her identity that would make this particularly hard?
- 4) How do you respond to the disciple's response, v23? How might they justify it?
- 5) Do we ever think that Jesus is too busy or too important for us?
- 6) What do you make of the challenging attitude and responses of Jesus in this passage? *[Steve explores this quite a bit in the sermon – listen on the church website]*
- 7) Steve suggests that Jesus is using a traditional teaching pattern of responding how the culture at the time would expect to get them all nodding along, before then changing tack to heal and restore – thereby revealing their attitudes and assumptions and the limits of their compassion. What do you make of this approach and understanding?
- 8) Are there limits to our compassion? People we don't want Jesus to do good things for? If so, where does that come from? If not, what makes that easy or hard?
- 9) Think about a group within current UK culture that you find it hard to relate to. How would it feel to see Jesus reaching out to them, hanging out with them and helping their families?
- 10) The woman in this story is the hero. What qualities characterise her through this story?
- 11) What might it look like for us to emulate her?
- 12) We know that sometimes when we bring our deepest need to Jesus, he will meet that request. At other times, it can feel like he's silent, absent or just taking his time. Do you have any experiences like that you can share?

**Moment for reflection:** *This might be a time of quiet, with a candle for reflection, or music on.*

- 13) The Canaanite woman has been persistent and bold in approaching Jesus and sharing her deepest need. When was the last time you acknowledged your deepest need? And brought that to God? And sat and waiting with him in that pain? Can you do that together now?
- 14) It might be that there's something real and painful that you can share with the group, please do take your time to do that if you can. Or it might be that there's 1 person in the group you can share your deepest need with at another time. Or it might be someone else that you need to talk to. Think quietly to yourself now about who you might be able to approach? How might you take the next adventure of faith and share your deepest need.

Finally spend some time praying for one another, depending on what has been shared. This will need to be handled sensitively.