

Rev. Thomas Emery
“Persistent and Determined Faith” Matthew 15:21-28
Salem Presbyterian Church
Sunday, August 17, 2014

Our passage is the story of a Canaanite woman who came to Jesus begging him to heal her seriously afflicted daughter. Because she was not a Jew, the disciples objected to her coming and tried to send her away. She persisted, refusing to give up. Her faith was so great in its power that it motivated her to action. It brought her to Jesus, and against all odds, it caused her to be determined not to give up. At last her hope was granted, and Jesus said to her, apparently with considerable excitement and deep emotion, "O woman, great is your faith!"

TEACHING POINTS

Teaching Point One: *There is power in persistence.* Because of her faith, her daughter was made well.

Teaching Point Two: *God sometimes delays answers to test our faith and to instill determination.*

Teaching Point Three: *We have access to God no matter where we come from.* This is one of the fundamental insights of the Christian gospel that the worth of a person is simply on the basis that he or she is a person.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

“Dear woman,” Jesus said to her, “your faith is great. Your request is granted.” And her daughter was instantly healed” (Matthew 15:29 NLT).

ACTION POINT

The disciples should have learned the lesson that Christ was teaching that day. The lesson is that anyone can come from anywhere to the Lord and to the Kingdom, and the way for coming is the simple path of faith. Why not learn from this lesson and give your own will and your life over to God's direction?