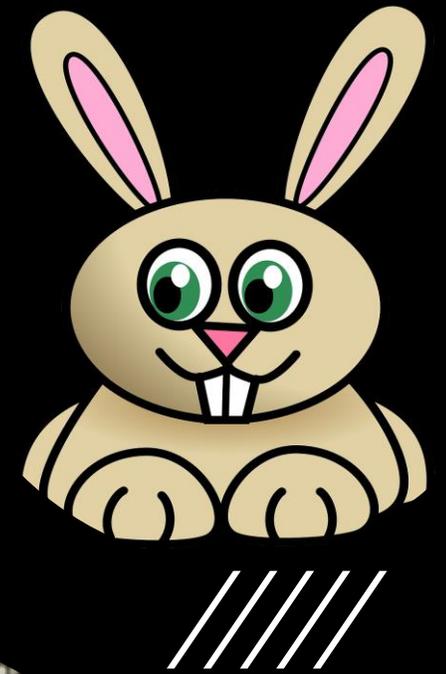


So ...  
a rabbit walks  
into a bar ...





# *Persistence*

*Matthew 15, 21-28... a tough response from Jesus*

## The Faith of a Gentile Woman

<sup>21</sup> Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> A Gentile<sup>[e]</sup> woman who lived there came to him, pleading, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! For my daughter is possessed by a demon that torments her severely.”

<sup>23</sup> But Jesus gave her no reply, not even a word. Then his disciples urged him to send her away. “Tell her to go away,” they said. “She is bothering us with all her begging.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to the woman, “I was sent only to help God’s lost sheep—the people of Israel.”

<sup>25</sup> But she came and worshiped him, pleading again, “Lord, help me!”

<sup>26</sup> Jesus responded, “It isn’t right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs.”

<sup>27</sup> She replied, “That’s true, Lord, but even dogs are allowed to eat the scraps that fall beneath their masters’ table.”

<sup>28</sup> “Dear woman,” Jesus said to her, “your faith is great. Your request is granted.” And her daughter was instantly healed.

# Tyre and Sidon



Daily Bible Study

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- Her prayer
- Their prejudice
- Her persistence



## *The prayer of a foreigner*

1. Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me!  
*Acknowledgement of who he is*
2. 'Lord, help me!'  
*A cry for help*
3. 'Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table'  
*Persistence*

In other words: RECOGNISE God, for who he is ... ASK for mercy... PERSIST

## ***Just BEFORE Today's Reading Matthew 15***

<sup>1</sup> Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, <sup>2</sup> 'Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!' ....

... <sup>10</sup> Jesus called the crowd to him and said, 'Listen and understand. What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.'

<sup>12</sup> Then the disciples came to him and asked, 'Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?'

<sup>13</sup> He replied, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. <sup>14</sup> Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.'

<sup>15</sup> Peter said, 'Explain the parable to us.'

<sup>16</sup> 'Are you still so dull?' Jesus asked them. <sup>17</sup> 'Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? <sup>18</sup> But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil thoughts – murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. <sup>20</sup> These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.'

### **The faith of a Canaanite woman**

*. Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.....*



*Do you persist in your approach to God?*

- 1. Acknowledgement of who he is - RECOGNISE God, for who he is*
- 2. Our cry for help – ASK for mercy and help*
- 3. Persistence ... PERSIST*