

## Table Crumbs

There is a small but powerful moment in the Book of Mark that many readers overlook. It happens when a Gentile mother, an outsider in every way, comes to Jesus' pleading for her daughter's deliverance from a possessing demon. Jesus responds with a familiar proverb that explained the priority of His mission, "*But Jesus said to her, 'Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.'* And she answered and said to Him, yes, Lord yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumb." Mark 7:27-28.

At first glance, it sounds as if Jesus is turning her away. But the heart of the story is not in the proverb, it's in the crumbs. This woman doesn't argue with the Lord. She doesn't demand a seat at the dinner table. She simply believes that a crumb from Christ is enough. And she's right. A single crumb of His mercy heals her daughter. A single crumb of His power overthrows a demon. A single crumb of His attention changes a family forever. The grace of Jesus is so abundant, so overflowing, that even the leftovers carry life-changing power.

What do the crumbs teach us today? Firstly, God's grace is never scarce. We sometimes live as though God's blessings are limited, as if He might run out, or as if someone else's answered prayer means less is available for us. But Scripture reminds us, "*But He gives more grace.*" James 4:6. "*And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.*" John 1:16. If the crumbs are this powerful, imagine what the feast is like.

Secondly, humility opens doors pride never will. The Syrophenician woman doesn't come with entitlement in mind. She comes with humility and trust that Lord is able to heal her daughter. And Scripture consistently shows that God responds to this posture. "*God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.*" James 4:6. "*Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.*" 1 Peter 5:6. Her humility becomes the pathway to her daughter's healing.

Thirdly, small things from God accomplish big things in us. A single verse, a quiet prayer, these may feel like crumbs in a busy world, but God often uses the smallest things to do His greatest work. Jesus Himself taught, "*If you have faith of a mustard seed...*" Matthew 17:20. "*For who has despised the day of small things?*" Zechariah 4:10. God's power is not measured by size but by source.

Fourthly, no one is beyond the reach of Jesus' table. This woman had every reason to believe she didn't belong. Yet she discovered that even the crumbs of

Christ's table reach beyond every boundary. Paul later celebrates this truth. *"For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."* Romans 10:13. *"There is neither Jew nor Greek...for you are all one in Christ Jesus."* Galatians 3:28. The crumbs were just the beginning of God's plan to welcome the nations.

The word for the week is crumbs. As you move through the days ahead, pay attention to the "crumbs" God scatters along your path. Maybe a verse that speaks at just the right moment, a small, answered prayer, a conversation that lifts your spirit, or a quiet reassurance that God is near. These are table crumbs, evidence that you are already within reach of the Savior's mercy and grace. And if the crumbs are this good, imagine the feast He is preparing.

~Ron Josselet (Assisted by CoPilot)