



Discussion Questions for **Matthew 15:21-28** “Mother’s Day”
Week of May 9th - 15th, 2010

Warm Up What woman in your life has inspired you most to be a person of prayer? How so?

- Read **Matthew 15:21-28**. What admirable qualities does the woman from Canaan display that are worth modeling when it comes to our prayer lives?
 - What stands out or surprises you from Jesus’ interactions with her?
 - How are you positively challenged or encouraged by this story?
- Prayer is multifaceted. Sometimes we commune with the Father in silence allowing His love and peace to rest upon us (read **Zephaniah 3:17**). Other times we contend strenuously in prayer as we seek the Lord with great effort. This focused and intense prayer takes hard work (read **Colossians 4:12**).
 - Are you well acquainted with both types of prayer? Which is most natural for you?
 - In what avenue of life do you feel the greatest burden to pursue the LORD in through prayer right now?
- Idolatry is simply an attitude of the heart, which trusts in someone or something other than God, through the saving work of Jesus Christ. Left to ourselves, we *all* gravitate toward idolatry. Do you believe this? What “idols” can personally lead you astray from an intimate prayer life in Jesus Christ? What does **Jonah 2:8** say about clinging to such idols? (A few idols might include: self-sufficiency, worry, fear, guilt, shame, security, power, bitterness, ungodly pleasure seeking etc.)

Wrap Up: Pray through the following Scriptures as you close:

“Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives [our] transgression? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.” - Micah 7:18

“Therefore he [Jesus] is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.” - Hebrews 7:25