

Understanding Matthew 15:21-28

And Yahusha went out from there and withdrew to the parts of Tsor and Tsidon. And see, a woman of Canaan came from those borders and cried out to Him, saying, "Have compassion on me, O Master, Son of David! My daughter is badly demon-possessed." But He did not answer her a word. And His taught ones came and asked Him, saying, "Send her away, because she cries after us." And He answering, said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. But she came and was bowing to Him, saying, "Master, help me!" And He answering, said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." But she said, "Yes Master, for even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." And Yahusha answering, said to her, "O woman, your belief is great! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that hour.

From a superficial reading Mashiach's words to this woman seem rather harsh giving the impression that His desire is to reject her. But such a thought conflicts with Mashiach's attitude toward the Samaritan woman He met at the well recorded in John chapter 4. For a correct understanding of the above passage we must first correctly interpret the terms in this metaphor: children refers to the Jews, bread is the 'Word' of YHWH and whilst the Jews did consider Gentiles as dogs, Mashiach had no racial prejudices - remember He offered the 'Kingdom' to the Samaritan woman. Mashiach does not use the term in a diminutive way but as that of a cherished household pet which often lay at the feet of its master while he ate. The master would throw bones and scraps to the dog. What is more, YHWH said all souls are mine so He treasures every soul not just Jewish souls, (Eze.18:23, 2Pet.3:9). Mashiach would be aware of His Father's comment.

What Mashiach is saying is that the Word is intended for the Jews. Only after His sacrifice were the Gentiles to be included. (Acts 10:9-28 - Peter and the sheet). But the woman argues, *"Even the dogs get the crumbs."* She is reminding Him that even the household pet is not totally ignored. She is challenging Him - *Is there no opportunity for Gentiles to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.* Mashiach fully understood her response and had no choice but to react positively, to do otherwise would have been against His Father's will.