

STORY 7: FAITH

On this particular occasion, Jesus had journeyed out of Israel to a place near the city of Tyre where he stayed at someone's home. He did not want people to know he was there, but they found out anyway.

A woman whose daughter had an evil spirit in her heard where Jesus was. And right away she came and knelt down at his feet. The woman was Greek and had been born in the part of Syria known as Phoenicia. The woman came to him crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession." She begged Jesus to force the demon out of her daughter.

Jesus did not say a word. But the woman kept following along and shouting, so his disciples came up and asked him to send her away. Finally Jesus answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

The woman came closer. Then she knelt down and begged, "Please help me, Lord!"

But Jesus told her, "It isn't right to take food away from children and feed it to dogs." Jesus said this to test her. He was saying that his first mission was to the Israelites, then to others. But the woman cleverly replied, "Yes, Lord, that's true, but even dogs get the crumbs that fall from their owner's table." For she was willing to take whatever Jesus would give her.

Then Jesus replied to her, "Woman, you have great faith! You have been given what you requested. You may return home now, the demon has left your daughter."

And her daughter was healed from that very hour. She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon was gone.