

## WOMEN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

# CANAANITE MOTHER AND BLIND MAN'S MOTHER

**Pray** and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

**Read** the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

**Begin** to answer the questions using your own words.

*Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.*

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### Lesson 13 • January 22, 2014

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of the **Persistent Widow and Widow's Offering** was helpful to you?

### SECTION I: Read Matthew 15:21-28

2. According to **V21** and **Mark 7:24**, where was Jesus, and what was He trying to do?
3. In **V22** and **Mark 7:25-26**:
  - a) Who was this woman?
  - b) Describe her plea.
  - c) What details stand out to you in the way she addressed Jesus?
4. In your opinion why did the woman come to Jesus with her problem?
5. Given her desperate demeanor and situation, what surprises you about Jesus' **and** His disciples' initial response? (**V23**)
6. As their conversation continued in **V24-25**:
  - a) What was Jesus trying to communicate to her?
  - b) What do you admire about her response?
7. a) In your own words, what did Jesus say next in **V26** and **Mark 7:27**?

7. b) Why do you think that Jesus seemed to be dissuading the woman from seeking His help?
8. a) In **V27**, what was the woman's response, and what, in essence, was she saying?  
  
b) Was the woman deterred? What character traits do you see in her?
9. What amazing affirmation did Jesus give to the woman in **V28**?
10. What happened to the woman's daughter and when? (**V28** and **Mark 7:30**)
11. In what situation do you need "great faith," either for yourself or on behalf of someone else?

## **SECTION II: Read John 9**

12. As you read the dialogue in **V1-3**:
  - a) How were the parents of the blind man most likely viewed by their society?
  - b) What was Jesus' better explanation for their son's blindness?
13. In **V6-12**, using your own words, summarize what happened.
14. As the Pharisees investigated the miracle in **V13-17**:
  - a) What did they conclude?
  - b) What did the blind man conclude?
15. From **V18-19**, who was brought before the Pharisees and why?
16. What surprises you about the response of his mother and father in **V20-21**?

17. a) Why did the blind man's mother (and father) deny that Jesus had healed their son in **V22-23**?

b) What does this tell you about her as a mother?

18. In what groups are you afraid to risk acknowledging Jesus for fear of being "put out"? (**V22**)

19. As you read the end of the story in **V24-38**, what aspect warms your heart and why?

20. a) Contrast the two mothers in this lesson.

b) What encouragement or warnings will you remember from their stories?

21. Write a prayer based on the lesson.

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### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Unlike the Canaanite mother who went to great lengths to care for her daughter, the parents of the blind man seemed to abandon their son. What comfort do you draw from the following verses, especially if you've ever felt abandoned by a parent?

**Psalms 27:10** \_\_\_\_\_

**Isaiah 49:15-16a** \_\_\_\_\_

2. There is only one other account of Jesus ascribing "great faith" to someone. Read about it in **Luke 7:1-10**. Why do you think Jesus categorized the Canaanite mother and the centurion's faith as such?

3. a) In contrast, Jesus ascribed to others "little faith." As you read the passages below, try to identify the reason for their "little faith."

**Matthew 6:25-34** (especially **V30b**) \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 8:23-27** \_\_\_\_\_

b) From these examples, where are you prone to have "little faith"?

4. In your journey from "little faith" to "great faith," what insight or comfort do you receive from **Hebrews 12:2a**?

5. Suggested Memory Verse: **Hebrews 12:2a**

