Empty yourself in humility

Questions:

1. What am I entitled to receive in life? What are the underserving gifts I receive from God?
2. Read Mat 15:21-28. Explore all the clues that lead us to understand Jesus’ intension was to edify the woman, not to put her down:
   1. Why did Jesus go north and visit Gentile cities Tyre and Sidon if he did mean he was sent to the Israelites only? (John 12:47b, 17:18).
   2. Why didn’t Jesus answer a word, contrary to how he treated the other Gentile of faith in Mat 8:5-7?
   3. Why didn’t Jesus “send her away” by performing a quick miracle as his disciples asked?
3. In the entire Gospels Jesus only commended this woman face to face to have great faith; how would the disciples think about it? How would this story help us to be more humble before the non-believers?

Mat 15:21 Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.” 23 Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.” 24 He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.” 25 The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said. 26 He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” 27 “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” 28 Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Mat 8:5 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 6 “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.” 7 Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?”

=== sermon notes ===

Emptied for fullness

Empty yourself in humility

1. The temptations of Jesus
   1. Wilderness, bread alone? Testing God? Worshipping the world?
2. A story of humility

(page 1) The surprising words from the humble Jesus

Mat 15:23 Jesus did not answer a word

24 “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”

26 “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

1. Mat 14:14 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.
2. John 17:18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

(page 2) Jesus’ true purpose is always love

21 Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

28 Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.”

1. Jesus wanted to bring out thee best of her faith- only in her humility
2. Compare the other story
   1. Mat 8:5 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 6 “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.” **7 Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?”** 8 The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.
   2. 10 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.
3. Jesus building up his disciples who wanted to send the woman away

(page 3) Blessed faith in trusting God’s goodness

22 “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me!

25 The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!”

27 “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

1. Mat 8:8 The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.
2. Disregard being relayed with the bad news (Jesus said no)
3. Disregard what Jesus appeared to reject her, she continue to trust the goodness of Jesus, and humbly came forward

(page 4) Empty yourself to receive the fullness

Phil 2:7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (ESV)

1. Humility VS entitlement
2. Lenten walk