Matthew 15:21-39

Christ Crumbs

I. Slide 1 Announce:
   A. Slide 2 Thrive:
   B. Children at Risk: Today 3-5 pm. We'll be talking about a few future projects with Safehouse & Rancho Damacitas. And Chris lick (Police Officer from Escondido) will be sharing about his trip regarding HT in Thailand & Cambodia with Destiny Rescue.
   C. Women’s Ministry Mtg: This Tues Mercy Rm 7 pm. Plan Women’s Xmas Celebration.
   D. Joe Dallas next 2 weeks. Topics. HS & Jr High in.
   E. From Larry & Shane in Sittwe, Myanmar (Rohingyas) - It's Sunday here we will do two food distributions today. No rain so far that makes it really hot but easier to get around.

II. Slide 3 Intro: Christ Crumbs
   A. Slide 4 Watch this short video of Heather Dorniden of the University of Minnesota as she races the 600m at the Big 10 Indoor Track Championships 2014.
      1. We love stories of those who persevered. Let’s meet another woman who didn’t give up, wouldn’t give up, & was rewarded for it.
   B. Slide 5 The brightest jewels are found in the darkest places.
      1. This is the only occasion where Jesus ventures beyond the border of Israel.

III. Slide 6 PUPPY CHOW (21-28) read
   A. Slide 7 Tyre & Sidon – In the region of Phoenicia. Modern Lebanon.
      1. They were 2 coastal towns on the Med. (30/40 N. of Capernaum)
      2. They were the descendants of the Canaanites (who no longer existed as a distinct people), so it’s Gentile Country. [notice a clockwise circle]
   B. Picture this women as a the bright jewel found in a dark place.

C. Slide 8a FAITH SPEAKS (22-24)
D. Does this bristle you the way Jesus treats her? Let it. - But what 1st appears to be rudeness...let’s remember His delays are not His denials.
E. Slide8b The Silent Treatment (23a) *But He answered her not a word.*

1. Her faith pushes on *despite* His closed ear & closed mouth.
2. Now *contrast* that w/individuals today who say, *unless I hear God I will not believe.*
3. She shows incredible *Job like faith,* which didn’t just say, *though he smite me...but instead, though He slay me...yet will I trust him.*

F. Slide8c The Snubbing Treatment (23) *Send her away, for she cries out after us.*

1. Her noise annoyed them.
2. She had many strikes against her: [1] *her nationality* was against her [2] she was a *woman* in a male dominated world [3] Satan was against her (1 of his demons took control of his daughter) [4] the *disciples* were against her [5] and for a time it even *looked like Jesus* was against her.
   a) Great Persistence: *What if Joshua* gave up on his 6th lap?
      *What if Namaan* didn’t go down on his 7th dip? *What if the man* at night needing bread stopped knocking? *What if the woman* quit pestering the unjust judge?
   b) Slide8d Someone said, *Triumph is just umph added to try!*
3. Samuel Rutherford (the saintly Scottish minister) who suffered greatly for Christ, once wrote to a friend, *It is faith’s work to claim and challenge loving-kindness out of all the roughest strokes of God.*
   a) And that’s what this woman did.
4. *Send her away, for she cries out after us...really?...us?*
   a) No she never cried after *them*...only after her Master.
5. *Men shouldn’t treat a lady this way. Disciples shouldn’t treat a seeker this way. Christians shouldn’t treat anybody this way.*
6. They tried to chase away this *she-dog* with rocks & sticks, *but* she wouldn’t leave.

G. Slide8e The Select Treatment (24) *I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Is.*

1. This must have felt like *an elephant* sitting on her heart.
a) She could have said, well then, He is not here for me. **Nope.**

b) Then she came & **worshiped** Him, saying, **Lord, help me.** (25)

c) Press through all obstacles & throw yourself a His feet. Knowing that, **the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.**

d) Slide9 Jesus was creating an opportunity for the **complete activity** of **her faith.**

H. Slide10a **FAITH ACKNOWLEDGES** (25-27)

I. (27) **Yes, Lord.**

1. She doesn’t dispute that **Gentiles** were to Israel as **dogs** but says, **Yes, Lord.**
   a) But she wasn’t coming to him on the goodness of **her** cause, but on the **Goodness of His heart.** Not on how she presented **her** plea, but instead on the excellence of **His power.**

2. Slide10b It is our task to simply be **empty**...so He can **fill** us.
   It is our task to **confess our filthiness**...so He can **wash** us.
   It is our task to be **less than nothing**...so He can be **more than everything** to us

3. **You’re a dog** – **Yes Lord, but I will wag my tail, fetch, sit up, even beg** for my Master.

4. **You’re a sheep** – **Yes, Lord, but sheep need a shepherd.**

J. Slide11 **FAITH AGREES**

K. **Faith Pleads but never Disputes.**

1. **Note:** she never says, **but** or **if**, not even **yet** (27 not in orig.)

2. Faith in God implies **agreement** with what God says.
   a) You are comparable to a little dog. **Truth Lord.**

   b) I can’t feed the little dogs before the children. **Truth, Lord, that wouldn’t be right.**

   c) It’s not your time yet. **Yes, Lord, 1st the children at meal time,...but the dogs right after dinner right? :)**

3. **God’s Word** is sometimes like a **salve** to a **wound**; and other times a **knife** that **cuts**, or a **sword** that **slays!** – Don’t fight against it – Say, **Truth Lord!**
L. Slide12a FAITH ARGUES (not argumentative)

M. Her arguments were *correct, strictly logical, & thorough*.

1. The best way to **reason** with a man *is* to take His own statements and argue upon them.

2. She was bold like **Jacob** **wrestling** with the angel, who even **overcame** the angel. The angel said, *Let Me go, for the day breaks.* But Jacob said, *I will not let You go unless You bless me!*

N. Slide12b Position (27a)

1. Yes, *dog I am*, but you have come all the way here to Sidon.
   a) I am **not** like the **scavenger dog** out in the street; I am a **little puppy** under your table awaiting some **Christ-Crumbs!**

O. Slide12c Relationship (27b)

1. Their **masters** table -
   a) She could not call him **Father**. She could not **claim the privilege of a child**. But she could call Him **Master**. And Masters feed their dogs (at least crumbs).
   b) The woman, being a **Gentile**, had **no covenant right** to come to Jesus and call Him **Son of David (22)**; but she could call Him **Lord** and have her prayer answered.

   (1) **Jesus was not rude to her; He was only testing & strengthening her faith**

2. Like the **prodigal** that came back content with just being one of his fathers **hired servants**.
   a) She spied out a dog’s relation to his master & made the most of it.
   b) She is **the only one we know of** that ever answered Jesus’ **mini-parables** back with a **mini-parable**.

P. Slide12d Children (26)

1. In the East, as a rule, a dog is not allowed indoors. They are foul creatures that roam about uncared for & half wild (Kosovo 2011/190 dogs).

2. **Adults** wouldn’t associate with them, **but children** knew nothing of this.
   a) They would take them to join in with them in their sports, games, & ultimately be invited under the table. (excellent for getting rid of your Brussels Sprouts)
   b) **So for the kids sake, they often were allowed under the table.**
Q. **Slide12e Consent** (27b)

1. It is sure to get a crumb from one of its playmates.

2. The children (Israel) have a full portion in You! (in Your presence; Your Word; they sit at your feet; have obtained all sorts of spiritual blessings.)
   a) I’m sure they can’t begrudge my daughter to be free from this demon; For that would only be a **crumb** compared to all they have been blessed with.

R. **Slide12f Abundance** (27b)

1. We’re not talking a poor man’s table who can’t afford to lose a crumb; but a **Kings’ table** where much is not even accounted for.

2. If a man gives a dog a crumb he has **none the less**; If Jesus gives mercy to the greatest of sinners He has **none the less**.

3. Since the beginning, it has always been God’s plan that through the children (Israel) the puppies (Gentiles) should get the bread.

4. And Jesus ended up not giving her **crumbs**...but the children’s bread.

S. **Slide13 FAITH WINS** (28)

T. O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.

U. **Persistence**

1. Not that she **earned** Christ’s ear or **earned** His healing power. Her **persistence** was only a demonstration that she **had faith**.

V. What a great lesson to every mother. Mother’s plead for your **daughters** & for your **sons** until you hear, **O Woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire**.

W. Even a mother bird afraid of human footsteps will remain upon its nest when the intruder comes. [**eg. diving birds, scare you walking under tree; then u turn around & watch others freak out**]

1. Parents, be encouraged to pray for your children.

X. Jesus paid **the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, spiritual freedom**.

1. In this case, a little girls freedom from **severe demonic powers**.

2. In your case, maybe today you need **His ultimate sacrifice for freedom** for your **sins**.

IV. **Slide14 HEALING MULTITUDE** (29-31)
A. (29) This was in the Decapolis. [10 cities that were authorized by the Romans to mint their own coins, run their own courts, & have their own armies] Predominantly Gentile Territory

B. (30) He didn’t go to the Gentiles but they came to Him. And He in no wise casted them out.

V. Slide15 FEEDING 4000 (32-39)

A. When you were faced with a crisis, take time to review His past mercies: remind yourself that He does not change. Warren Wiersbe

B. Ken Gire said, Miracles are the common currency of heaven. The feeding of the 4000 was just a little loose change spilling from a hole in its pocket.

1. (33) Where? Had they forgot about the 5000? - Well, we do! Hasn’t God taken care of a bill of $200 for you, & yet we get anxious over the next one for $100?

C. Isn’t the bible full of contradictions? I thought it was a feeding of 5000 not 4000???

D. These are simply 2 different events. I found 8 differences:

1. Slide16a-h Feeding 5000 took place on the Western shore of Galilee; Feeding 4000 on the Eastern shore.
2. Feeding 5000 involved predominantly Jews; Feeding 4000 involved predominantly Gentiles.
3. Feeding 5000 involved 5 loaves & 2 fish; Feeding 4000 involved 7 loaves & a few fish.
4. Feeding 5000 the people had been w/Him 1 day; Feeding 4000 the people had been w/Him 3 days.
5. Feeding 5000 had 12 little baskets of fragments left over; [kophinos; small wicker baskets] Feeding 4000 had 7 large baskets of fragments left over. [spuris; large hamper; Acts 9:25]
6. Feeding 5000 Jesus prayed 1 time; Feeding 4000 Jesus prayed 2 times over the bread & fish.
7. The amount of the 2 crowds were different (5000 & 4000)
8. Lastly, Jesus says it was 2 different events!!! (16:9,10)
E. Jesus was quite the preacher to keep them listening for 3 days. (2)

F. Slide17a Why is He doing this miracle again? (4)
   1. A different crowd (Gentiles). Compassion on them.
   2. Also, Does yesterday’s miracle necessarily guarantee today’s faith? (no it doesn’t)
   3. Slide17b/c And as they say, Repetition is the mother of all learning!

G. So, Why is He doing this miracle again?
   1. Slide18 He wants the disciples and you & I to understand...He is the Bread of Life
      a) Jn.6:48-51 Yes, I am the bread of life! Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness, but they all died. Anyone who eats the bread from heaven, however, will never die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh.
      b) Slide19 Jesus’ credentials: It explains My Fathers prophesy to Moses in Ex.16:4 Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you (manna/Jesus). It explains My birthplace, Bethlehem, the city of Bread. It explains My person, I am the bread of life; It explains My power, the miraculous multiplication shouted omnipotence. It explains My suffering, the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.
   2. He wants the disciples and you & I to understand...He was not just the Bread for the Jews, but also for the Gentiles.
   3. He wants the disciples and you & I to understand...His supply always meets and exceeds the demand.
      a) Our souls, so to speak, are elastic. The more we eat the more they expand. The more they expand, the more we are able to eat.¹ [stretchy pants / stretchy souls!]
      b) Christ did not break the bread, so that suddenly there were huge piles of bread and fish. Rather, He kept breaking it & handing out what was needed bit by bit.
         (1) We need to be constantly bringing our needs to Jesus, and He will constantly break the bread and give us what we need.
         (2) Whatever God has given us, there is still far more for Him to give us.

¹ Kent Hughes, Mark, pg.188.