



Growth Group Discussion Questions

Spring Session 5/26/19

1. Re-read Matthew 15:21-28, the story of the Canaanite woman we discussed on Sunday. If you were a casual observer, what would you have thought about Jesus's initial responses? What do you think was his mindset and thought process behind those responses?
2. If you were the Canaanite woman, what do you think would have been your thoughts, hopes, and fears before approaching Jesus? What would have been your possible reactions to his responses?
3. Have you ever felt that God was ignoring or callous towards your requests, needs, and prayers? What are the possible pathways (both good and bad) you can pursue if/when you feel that way?
4. Have you ever struggled with the question of why God does not prevent or stop more evil or suffering? What do you think about the many occasions where Jesus seemingly could "easily" heal or relieve suffering but does not choose to?

5. What do you think about the proposition that perhaps God's agenda has more to do with "re-centering" our view of life from ourselves to Him, and that He is therefore less interested in making our lives easier and preventing suffering than we are? This is a hard pill to swallow, so feel free to wrestle with the question and be honest—we're all at different places in the journey and it is ok to acknowledge what we think and feel without jeopardizing our worth or value to God.

6. How do you feel about the idea that it is often **entitlement**, and not disappointment, that is the "faith killer" for wounded idealists? And that humility is the "bridge" that helps us to cross from idealist or wounded idealist to faithful realist (and escape the troubled waters of cynicism)? Do you see this played out (her humility helping her avoid being cynical) in the account of the Canaanite woman? If so, how?