

Jesus Makes It Safe...To Hold Space

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Matthew 15:21-28

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

The cauldron that creates us is strong

This can define our view of the kingdom so much that we think our view IS the kingdom.

*In what ways did your cauldron of culture, family and faith shape you?

*Have you seen ways that these views have seeped into your view of the kingdom?

Read and discuss Matthew 15:21-28 (NTE)

²¹ Jesus left that place and went off to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from those parts came out and shouted, 'Have pity on me, Lord, son of David! My daughter is demon-possessed! She's in a bad way!' ²³ Jesus, however, said nothing at all to her.

His disciples came up.

'Please send her away!' they asked. 'She's shouting after us.'

²⁴ 'I was only sent', replied Jesus, 'to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.'

²⁵ The woman, however, came and threw herself down at his feet.

'Master,' she said, 'please help me!'

²⁶ 'It isn't right', replied Jesus, 'to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.'

²⁷ 'I know, Master. But even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.'

²⁸ 'You've got great faith, haven't you, my friend!' replied Jesus. 'All right; let it be as you wish.'

And her daughter was healed from that moment.

*What are these passages saying to you?

*Where do you see yourself in this story?

Jesus makes it safe to hold space with the other

Especially when we are more worried about holding what is right.

*When has been a time that you may have hidden behind your faith when you were really just scared to listen, learn or love?

*How has Jesus made it safe to hold space with 'the other' in your life?

Welcome precedes transformation

When people dare to believe that they are truly loved, the welcome of God begins to sink in.

*Where have you seen welcome precede transformation?

*What makes it hard for you to love agenda-free?

*Who is God stirring you to forgive, to reach out to, to love?