

## Sunday Service ~ January 25, 2026

### Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

#### Welcome & Prayer

*"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. <sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? <sup>3</sup> My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" <sup>4</sup> These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng. <sup>5</sup> Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God." (Psalm 42:1-5, NIV)*

Let us pray.... Dear Lord, our soul pants for you this morning. We long to be in your presence. We long to worship you with others in person but today we can't, despite all our good intentions and so we come to you by ourselves this morning or with our family around us. We need you. We need you like we need our food and drink. We need your presence, your forgiveness, your love, your grace, your help and power. So give us more of you today. Let us see more of your glory as we sing our songs. Let us hear more your character as we listen to your word. Let us experience more of your goodness as we pray. And draw us closer to your people as we sing the same song, pray the same prayers, listen to the same sermon, even if we are in different locations today. Help us this day to truly worship you in spirit and in truth. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

#### Song – Behold our God [Behold Our God - \[Official Lyric Video\] - YouTube](#)

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| 1. Who has held the oceans in his hands?<br>Who has numbered every grain of sand?<br>Kings and nations tremble at his voice<br>All creation rises to rejoice | 3. Who has felt the nails upon his hands?<br>Bearing all the guilt of sinful man<br>God eternal, humbled to the grave<br>Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign |
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Chorus: Behold our God, seated on his throne  
 Come, let us adore him  
 Behold our king, nothing can compare  
 Come, let us adore him

Chorus

Bridge You will reign forever  
 (let Your glory fill the Earth) x8

2. Who has given counsel to the Lord?  
 Who can question any of his words?  
 Who can teach, the one who knows all things?  
 Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

Chorus

Chorus

#### Bible Reading – Matthew 15:1-20 (NIV)

*Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, <sup>2</sup> "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!" <sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? <sup>4</sup> For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.' <sup>5</sup> But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is 'devoted to God,' <sup>6</sup> they are not to 'honour their father or mother' with it. Thus, you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. <sup>7</sup> You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:*

8 *“These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.*

9 *They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.”*

10 *Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand. 11 What goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.” 12 Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?” 13 He replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. 14 Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.” 15 Peter said, “Explain the parable to us.” 16 “Are you still so dull?” Jesus asked them. 17 “Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? 18 But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. 20 These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.”*

## Announcements

**Focus for Month: Prayer (for growth).** We grow as a Christian by regularly sitting under God’s Word, letting Scripture shape your thinking, priorities, and loves. By praying consistently, not only bringing requests to God but learning to depend on him and delight in him. We commit to life with other believers, where encouragement, correction, and service help us mature together. And we trust that real growth ultimately comes from God, and faithfully persevere in obedience as he works in you by his Spirit.

**NSW School Holidays.** With all NSW schools now on holidays, our regular activities will go into recess until February 2026. That means all Home Groups, Kids and Youth activities, playgroup and most other things will be having a well-earned rest. The men’s and women’s walking groups are still happening!

### **Kids Church & Creche Team Meeting – Sunday 1st February**

All Kids Church and Creche staff are invited to attend a team meeting on **Sunday 1st February at 12:00pm**. Light refreshments will be provided. We appreciate all that you do and look forward to gathering together.

**Vision Sunday.** Next Sunday we will be our Vision Sunday where we try and capture what God wants us to do in the coming 12 months. So, try and make a special effort to come to one of our services so we can commit all that we do to the Lord and seek his guidance. Next Sunday will also be when Kids Church will again start back for the year.

### **Dates to Note**

- **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb**    **Breaking the silence Training**
- **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb**    **Launch Sunday ~ Celebrating the Redevelopment**
- **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Mar**    **Breaking the Silence Top Up Training Day.**

**Church Redevelopment.** Many thanks to all the people who have put aside time in their schedules to help with the painting, cleaning and gardening around our Church site. We are getting towards the end of the work that we can do. But there will need to be a big effort made to go back into our Church and set everything up for our worship services. When will that be? In the next week or two (hopefully). So, please keep an eye out for an email calling on help for a Saturday workday and also be ready to come back to our redeveloped church precinct in the coming weeks.

**Communication.** To receive our church bulletin via email, or to get the church directory/ roster App, Elvanto, please email [Samuel.wilson@cpres.org.au](mailto:Samuel.wilson@cpres.org.au)

**Church Camp |6th- 8th March 2026** Church Camp is coming up quickly! Make sure you get your registration in by NEXT SUNDAY. <https://charlestownpresbyterian.square.site/>

### **AM Sermon Series ~ Matthew 14-20: Following the King... even to the cross.**

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|------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 8.2  | Matthew 15:29-16:12 | Bread of Life               |
| 15.2 | Matthew 16:13-28    | Shaped by Christ            |
| 22.2 | Matthew 17:1-23     | From the glory to the grind |
| 1.3  | Matthew 17:24-18:14 | The King who stoops         |

8.3	Matthew 18:15-35	Mercy that shapes a community
15.3	Matthew 19:1-12	Faithful to the end
29.3	Matthew 19:13-20	Who can enter the kingdom?
12.4	Matthew 20:1-34	Last is first

## Pastoral Prayer

**Pray for Australia.** We pray that Australia would turn again to the living God, recognising our deep need for his grace and mercy in Christ. We ask that the gospel would be clearly proclaimed across our nation, and that many would be brought from spiritual death to life by the work of the Holy Spirit. We pray for our leaders, that they would govern with wisdom, justice, and humility under God's sovereign rule. And we ask that the Church in Australia would be faithful, courageous, and loving, holding out the word of life in a secular and searching culture.

**Pray for Phoebe Baldwin.** Praise God that her move to Sydney went smoothly. Pray that she will be able to settle in to my new home and a new church. Pray for the puppet making workshop, for safe travel to and from the Gold Coast. Praise God for this opportunity to learn and grow in her puppet-making skills. Pray for wisdom and good preparation as she gets ready to teach Scripture by herself. Pray that she will learn something at the SRE Conferences to take into my lessons.

**Pray for the move back into the Church.** Thank the Lord for all the hard work that has been put in over the school holidays but our volunteers, both young and old that have faithfully served the church by painting, cleaning, planting and watering. Pray that the completion certificate might give us the go ahead to move back into the church ASAP. Pray that the new space will be used well to help encourage one another and to invite those outside of the faith into a place where they can hear God's word faithfully proclaimed.

**Pray for teachers and students.** We pray for teachers in government schools, Christian schools, and home education, that God would grant them wisdom, patience, and endurance as they shape young lives. We pray for students, that they would grow in knowledge and character, and for those who know Christ, that their faith would be strengthened and lived out with gentleness and courage. We ask that in every learning setting God would be honoured, truth would be pursued, and the gospel would bear quiet but lasting fruit through faithful witness and love.

## Bible Reading – Matthew 15:21-28 (NIV)

*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.*

## Song – Come behold the wondrous mystery

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-xQDm-KZw8>

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Come behold the wondrous mystery<br/>In the dawning of the King<br/>He the theme of Heaven's praises<br/>Robed in frail humanity<br/>In our longing, in our darkness<br/>Now the light of love has come<br/>Look to Christ who condescended<br/>Took on flesh to ransom us</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Come behold the wondrous mystery<br/>Slain by death the God of life<br/>But no grave could e'er restrain Him<br/>Praise the Lord He is alive<br/>What a foretaste of deliverance<br/>How unwaivering our hope<br/>Christ in power resurrected<br/>As will we be when He comes</li> </ol> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

2. Come behold the wondrous mystery  
 He the perfect Son of Man  
 In his living, in his suffering  
 Never trace nor stain of sin  
 See the true and better Adam  
 Come to save a hell-bound man  
 Christ the great and sure fulfillment  
 Of the law; in Him we stand
  
3. Come behold the wondrous mystery  
 Christ the Lord upon the tree  
 In the stead of ruined sinners  
 Hangs the lamb in victory  
 See the price of our redemption  
 See the Father's plan unfold  
 Bringing many sons to glory  
 Grace unmeasured, love untold

## Sermon – The Anatomy of Worship. (Stephen T)

Have you ever had one of those Sundays where you turn up to church & your outsides don't match your insides? On the outside you're smiling, shaking hands, saying "*G'day, good to see you.*" On the inside you're tired, frustrated, anxious, maybe numb at the events of the week. On the outside you look like you have it all together. On the inside you feel like a real mess.

I have. Not today, mind you. But I have. Some days I stand up in front of you looking like I have it all together. Acting as if I have all the Bibles answers at my fingertips. Giving you the impression that I am a person who is practising what I preach. But inwardly I am disappointed, despondent, sometimes even disinclined to live God's way.

And it can happen so quickly, can't it? One week it's just a rough Sunday morning. Next week it's been a difficult couple of days. Then before long it becomes the normal way we arrive at church, polished on the outside, unsettled on the inside. Sometimes it's not just Sundays. The same thing happens on Monday at work, Wednesday at home, Friday night with friends.

We learn to carry the "outside version" of ourselves—calm, capable, controlled—while the "inside version" is hurting, drifting, or spiritually dry. And the real danger is this: **we get used to it.** We get used to appearing fine without being fine. We get used to managing our spiritual image rather than dealing with our unspiritual reality. We get used to our traditions, routines, and practises that help us look godly, while our hearts stay distant.

Slide 2

That's exactly the issue that Jesus addresses in Matthew 15. The Pharisees were experts at appearing devout—scrubbing the outside of the cup, polishing their spiritual résumé—yet their hearts didn't match their religious shine. And in our passage today Jesus calls all of us to something far better: a life where our outsides match our insides, where we live a life of worthy worship not just on a Sunday morning but all the time.

Slide 3

To get there, Jesus gives us four discipleship diagnostics concerning our Lips, Eyes, Heart, & Knees. That will

help us to follow God's Word, go God's Way, do God's Work, and participate in God's Worship. Let's walk through each comparing Jesus' call with the Pharisees' practise.

Slide 4

### 1. LIPS — GOD'S WORD (vv. 1–9)

*"Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem & asked, 2 "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!"*

Last week we saw that Jesus fed 5000 people with a few loaves of bread and couple of small fish, then he calmed a storm and walked on water, so if you were a Pharisees and you got to ask this Jesus one question, I wonder what it would be? Jesus, who are you really? Where did you get that sort of power? What does God want me to do? But the question they actually ask? Why don't your disciples wash their hands properly? How trivial.

Now its not like washing your hands isn't important. During the coronavirus period we all got a reminder that it can be incredibly dangerous if you don't wash your hands before you eat things. But is that really the most pressing issue for these religious leaders? Really? Is what you put in your lips really the gold standard as to how righteous you really are?

Slide 5

*3 "Jesus replied, "And **why do you** break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? 4 For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.' 5 But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is 'devoted to God,' 6 they are not to 'honour their father or mother' with it. Thus, you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition."*

Jesus turns the tables on the Pharisees by asking them, not why are you breaking the laws of men, but why are you breaking the command of God? You see by your rules it looks like you are really godly people. You talk a great game. You honour God with your lips. But you are actually following your own laws over and above following God's word. And when you do that, you are actually nullifying the word of God for the sake of your own tradition.

Now for the Pharisees it was about honouring a promise, even if it meant not honouring their mother or father. So, in the example that Jesus highlights you could vow to give part of your wealth to God, not necessarily now but sometime in the future, maybe even in your will when you die. And that meant if your parents were in need, right now, you didn't have to help them, because you had previously promised that money was going to God.

Slide 6

Which means that when push comes to shove, following a man-made rule of keeping your vow is more important than a God given command to look after your parents.

Now it's an easy trap to fall into and I've done it plenty of times myself. I've put the things of the Church over my family. Yes, when I became a minister, I promised to consciously attend the courts of the church and to perform all the duties of a minister but on many occasions, I have done so at the expense of sick family members and an exasperated wife.

Slide 7

And the Church, including this Church, sometimes puts man-made rules over the commands of God. Sometimes we let our love of proper process—courts, committees, motions, minutes—replace our obedience to the Great Commission. Meetings multiply while mission stagnates. Our tradition of careful governance is good... until it becomes a way of avoiding costly disciple-making.

Or maybe our strong, deeply rooted convictions about worship: the order of service, the style of music, the pattern of prayers, the seriousness of the preaching, become more important than spiritual transformation, bending the knee before God, humility and forgiveness and compassion for others. Form becomes more important than substance.

I'm sure this is an issue with most of us. Where we attend that committee meeting rather than having that difficult conversation with your wife. Or you go to a work day rather helping your aged parents. Where we fail to reconcile with an aggrieved Christian brother or sister because we are still praying about it. It's so easy to say to ourselves "I'm serving the Lord. God's work comes first." Yet serving God never replaces honouring father and mother.

Slide 8

Doesn't the priest and Levite in the parable of the good Samaritan teach us something similar? They both looked like they were putting God first, staying ritually clean and heading off to the temple. Yet by avoiding the wounded man they actually broke the heart of God's law, to love our neighbour. Outsides polished; inside hollow & Jesus wants more for us.

Slide 9

Nor is the opposite any better. Always prioritising family over the church family. Not putting your kids out but forgetting God's call beyond your family to build God's kingdom. 7 *"You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 8 'These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 9 They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.' 10 Jesus called the crowd to him and said, 'Listen and understand. 11 What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them'"*

Jesus challenge to the Pharisees & to us is to watch what is coming out of your lips. For it is easy to sound godly. To mouth rules and regulations or even Bible verses that seem wise but if you are not worshipping God the way he is directing you to worship. If your heart is still cold and not changed by what God has done for you then God will see through it completely.

Religious people, following man-made rules look impressive but they are trusting in their own righteousness. But God's righteousness is all about God's Spirit changing our hearts and making us want to follow God's word. And when we fail to do what God wants us to do, God's word drives us to Christ to seek his help, his forgiveness & his righteousness.

Slide 10

Friends, it's not wrong to have traditions, regulations, rules. In fact, human experience and history tells us we all have some sort of traditions that guide us. But do those traditions contradict the word of God? Have they become more important than the word of God? For the Bible + anything = equals the Bible minus God's commands. If we want to worship God, if we want to grow in our relationship with God, then our lips need to be full of God's word, not man's rules. And to that we will need God's Spirit to secondly keep

Slide 11

## **2. Our EYES on God's ways (Verses 12-14)**

12 *"Then the disciples came to him and asked, 'Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?'" 13 He replied, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. 14 Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.'"*

What Jesus says offends the Pharisees and the Jesus disciples notice that they are hurt. But rather than backing away Jesus doubles down. Our heavenly father will pull up any dangerous plant. He will leave any blind guides to go their own way, even if they end up in a ditch at the side of the road, along with all their followers.

Because worthy worship is not just about our lips but also about our eyes. It is the whether or not we see God's way before us. You see following just human rules promotes self-centredness, it fuels self-righteousness and ultimately serves self-interest. Those who do so, see religion, not sin. They see tradition, not truth. They see themselves as righteous but the problem is they can't see their own hearts, which means they are the blind leading the blind

Slide 12

We use that expression all the time nowadays, don't we? We see an internet influencer giving out financial advice but not being qualified to do that as the blind leading the blind. Or one teenager telling their friend about what love really is as someone not sharing hard earned knowledge but instead showing up their ignorance. Here Jesus is calling his disciples to be careful whom you let lead your heart, shape your thinking, or guide your life.

For our eyes should be trained on Jesus not on outward appearances. Grace needs to be the way forward not rule keeping. The danger is not outward where everyone else is but inwardly where the motivation to sin comes from. And the people around us are not to be avoided but embraced, not judged but viewed with compassion, not hated but loved.

In this passage we reach the staggering conclusion that the Pharisees, the religious leaders of the time, didn't know how spiritually blind they really were. And we would be extremely foolish if we failed to realise the same worldliness that was in them, **could also be in our hearts today as well**. For it is possible for us to train our eyes on what we consider the big sins and completely miss the point that we are all sinners. So here Jesus is calling us to have our eyes open - open to sin, open to grace and to be especially open to the wonderful work of salvation that he wants to do in our...

Slide 13

### 3. HEART – God's Work (verses 15-20)

15 "Peter said, "Explain the parable to us." 16 "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. 17 "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? 18 But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. 20 These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

As many preachers have pointed out, the heart of the problem, is the problem of the human heart. Food goes firstly into the stomach before it passes through the body. But what is in the heart comes out through our lips in what we say, through our eyes in what we focus on, through our thinking in what we ponder & it is these things that determine our behaviour. That is the mark of true worship and true godliness, what is going on in the human heart.

Well, if that is the case, we just need to change the attitudes of our hearts, don't we? And that can be done with rules about what we can eat or what we can read or what we can do or what we can focus on? Right? Wrong! Human beings can't fix up their own hearts. They need God to cleanse their hearts. To give them a new heart.

Slide 14

And that is what God promised to do through the prophet in Ezekiel 36. <sup>25</sup>"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup>I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

Slide 15

Here's what JC Ryle had to say on the subject "What is the first thing we need in order to be Christians? A new heart. What is the sacrifice that God asks us to bring to him? A broken and a contrite heart (Psalm

51:7)... What is genuine obedience? To obey from the heart. What is saving faith? To believe with the heart. Where ought Christ to dwell? To dwell in our hearts through faith (Ephesians 3:17)."

So, the problem is not dirty hands but an unwashed heart. The Pharisees thought change came from the outside in but Jesus says it comes from the inside out. So instead of polishing our own behaviour, following rules and rituals and managing everything ourselves, we need God to transform our heart, for God's Spirit to renew us from the inside out, for Jesus to not just forgive us our sin but give us a whole new heart transplant.

Slide 16

If we want to change the outputs, we need to change what's inside, the heart. And that's God's work not ours. The only thing we can do is to open ourselves up to the Lord to do his work in us. To come to a worship service looking for God to teach us and renew us. Opening up God's word daily so he can refresh us and reorientate us. Prayerful ask the father to send the Spirit to revive us and restore us. That is the only way that our outsides will ever match our insides. So real worship, worthy worship is opening ourselves up for God to do just that.

#### 4. That leads lastly to **OUR KNEES as we seek God's Worship** (verses 21-28)

For if the Pharisees, the current spiritual leaders can't be trusted. If they really are blind guides who will lead us to fall into a ditch. Then who can be trusted? Well in the minds of everyone, certainly not the next person Jesus runs into. But they are soon to find out how wrong they all really are.

Slide 17

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."

Who does Jesus run into next? Well, he is Gentile country, Tyre and Sidon, far, far away from God's people. Now wasn't Queen Jezebel from Sidon? So this doesn't look good. And he runs into a Canaanite, aren't they Israel's greatest enemies? People under God's curse for all their hate crimes against the Jews? What's worse it's a Canaanite woman. In those days women were second class citizens and certainly never taught explicitly the things of God. And this woman's daughter is demon possessed. So, if you had an unclean gigametre this woman would be off the scale. Really there is uncleanness wherever this woman looks.

Slide 18

And what's worse is that Jesus doesn't make it particularly easy for this woman. 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."

Jesus' mission is not to the world but to the people of God. And so, he seems to be ignoring her, pushing her away even. But as the story continues, he is not doing that at all. Instead, he was testing her because he knew before him was an example of great faith.

Slide 19

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."

Did I hear right? Did Jesus really call the Gentiles, dogs? Let's walk it through step by step. This woman is saying to Jesus I want, no I need your help, your mercy, your bread of life. And Jesus is saying in reply, first, first let the children, the family of God, the Jews eat what they want. And that is what Jesus had been doing up until now. He had been feeding the Jews the bread of life first of all. That was why he had come. Yes, later he would send his disciples to the Gentiles with the good news but the children must come first, before the household pets, the dogs have their day.



This was a test of faith for the woman. Do you know your place in salvation history? Do you understand that God wants to work through the Jewish nation first before he gets to the Gentiles? But this woman is just about to pass this test of faith with flying colours. For Jesus is currently in the vicinity of Tyre and amongst a Gentile population. And this woman realises that God does care for all people Jew and Gentile and so she responds with great faith. *“Yes, it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”*

Yes, feed the children, let them have what they want, what they need, the woman replies back. But make sure we Gentiles get something as well, and we are more than happy with the crumbs from the table of God. For a crumb of God is still enough to get rid of the demon in my daughter. A crumb of grace is more than what I need & that is why I have come to you

Slide 21

Derek Thomas says *“Now this woman didn't have a Bible. She knew nothing of the New Testament. She knew nothing of the doctrine of justification by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone apart from the works of the law. But she knew this much: that the answer to her problem, the answer to her predicament lay in one person and in one person alone. Jesus... And no matter what the obstacles, no matter what the difficulties, she persevered. She would not take no for an answer. She believes... And Jesus says of her, ‘Your faith is great’.* And her daughter is healed that very hour.

Slide 22

Now there is an implicit contrast between the Pharisees outward impressiveness and the Canaanite woman’s inward faith. She humbles herself and kneels before Jesus. She keeps crying out even when it seems she is being ignored. She is told that she has no rights but she still pleads for mercy. And her humble, persistent, self-effacing faith is rewarded.

For who will be invited to the Lord’s table? Who will enjoy the banquet that begins with the King’s bread? Not just the children of God, the Jews but even the Gentiles, the rest of the world. All those who knees bow before God in worship, whose heart has been cleansed by God’s work on their behalf and whose eyes are looking toward God’s ways and whose lips are declaring to themselves and others God’s word.

Slide 23

And that can include you and I. But not if we are only concerned with our outward appearance. Not if the masks are on and the clothes, we wear look fine. But only when we open up our hearts to the Lord Jesus. Only when we come on our knees crying, pleading, trusting and refusing to walk away from what God wants to do in our lives.

Jesus isn’t asking for perfect behaviour. He’s wanting to clean up our dirty heart. He wants Lips — aligned with God’s Word. Eyes — focused on God’s Way. Hearts — shaped by God’s Work. And Knees — bowed before God in Worship. So come to him today knowing that God doesn’t want our masks, he wants our hearts. He doesn’t want us to look like we have it all together but to be people that in all we do who look to Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

## **Song – Take my life** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7L6r7FJ7LM>

### **Verse 1**

Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated Lord to Thee  
Take my moments and my days  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

### **Verse 2**

Take my voice and let me sing  
Always only for my King  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee

**Chorus**

Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee  
Take my love my Lord I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store  
Take myself and I will be  
Ever only all for Thee  
Ever only all for Thee

**Verse 3**

Take my silver and my gold  
Not a mite would I withhold  
Take my intellect and use  
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose

**Verse 4**

Take my will and make it Thine  
It shall be no longer mine  
Take my heart it is Thine own  
It shall be Thy royal throne.

**Benediction.** *"Now to him who is able to establish you by the gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ... to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ."* (Romans 16:25 & 27)