

APPROACHING GOD WITHOUT PRETENCE

Matthew 15:21-28



Access depends on the relationship; the closer and more intimate the relationship, the greater the access. A strong relationship is founded on honesty, not trying to manipulate the other person for your benefit. To truly be in a relationship with someone and benefit from it, you need to understand them. When you call upon somebody, you need to have a level of information about that person. Similarly, you need to have an accurate understanding of God. He is not what you may think He is in your mind, but what the Bible says He is.

It is essential to understand who God is, as this will affect how you interact with Him. When requesting something from God, it should be done so in the context of the relationship that has been formed. The quality of the relationship will determine what can be shared. For this reason, it is important to clearly define the relationship to ensure safety and prevent misunderstandings.

The woman in Matthew 15:21-28 was aware of Jesus being referred to as the Son of David, a title which was well-known among the Jewish people in relation to the Messiah. She did not have the privilege of addressing Jesus as the Son of David because she was a Gentile, yet she did possess knowledge. Knowledge can give you the foundation to appeal to God, yet it does not create a relationship with Him.

Accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is voluntary, and it starts your relationship with God. When you are born into a Christian family, you are provided with information which gives you the opportunity to form a relationship with Him. You can only start to receive from Him as a Father when you begin a relationship. Therefore, we see that Jesus did not answer when the woman initially addressed Him, but He responded to His disciples because they had an established relationship. The woman realized she was pretending to be someone she wasn't and changed her words to call Him Lord. It was then that Jesus turned to her, and this is when the relationship began.

Jesus referred to the miracle requested by that woman as 'bread for the children,' thus implying it only belonged to those with a connection to Him. So, who is God to you? What is your connection with God like? What do you and Him have in common? To be part of Christ's family is a relationship, and the miracle will become your sustenance.

Jesus initiated a new relationship between humanity and God when He came and sacrificed Himself on the Cross. He sought to demonstrate the Father to all people, offering the entire world the prospect of being a part of God's family. People in the former covenant were familiar with God as the Judge, and they were frightened of Him. However, now, we have a covenant of love, in which God has been revealed to us as a loving Father. Jesus provided us with the knowledge and the connection while demonstrating how to be sons and daughters of the Father.

Only Jesus has been able to fully satisfy the Father, providing the only path to reach Him. No one comes close to the flawless perfection of God, and the only way to reach such a high bar is through Jesus, who fulfilled the Father's expectations. Christ's death enabled us to be part of the same family, and when we pray, we direct it to the Father in Jesus' name. Jesus has met the Father's standard and overcame that which constrained mankind - death. Additionally, we can ask in Jesus' name because we are positioned in Him; God looks at us through Him. As a result, praying in Jesus' name is not a mere phrase or a slogan but rather a place of being, a position.

