

## When the gospel went to the dogs (Matthew 15:21-28)

If Barney had chosen to defend himself, he could have played the “Jesus” card!

What do we make of a text where Jesus seems to act in a very un-Jesus-like manner?

Jesus and the disciples ventured way north and west to the region of Phoenicia

Notice five big surprises in the text:

#1 Jesus is initially \_\_\_\_\_ to the woman’s pleas.

#2 His only responsibility was to the “\_\_\_\_\_ of Israel?”

#3 What Jesus says to the woman seems entirely out of character

#4 The story follows a text where Jesus says that being unclean is not a matter of what’s on the \_\_\_\_\_ but what’s in the \_\_\_\_\_.

#5 The insightful, imaginative, and \_\_\_\_\_ comeback of this remarkable woman.

**Jesus’s first assignment indeed was to the lost sheep of Israel.**

For the most part, \_\_\_\_\_ denied and rejected Jesus, not the other way around.

Notice the similarity between Peter’s cry to Jesus (14:30) and the woman’s cry

**Notice also the contrast in Jesus’s replies to each of them**

Words like “\_\_\_\_\_” and “\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_” were out of place for this Canaanite woman!

What happens if we see Jesus’s words to this woman as a test of faith?

**Fundamental to everything in the Christian faith is figuring out Jesus.**

**We all make the same journey as these people.**