

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

RLJ-1938

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PART 40: THE CANAANITE WOMAN

GOING TO THE GENTILES

Once Jesus finished explaining His teaching to the disciples, they left Galilee and traveled to the northern coastal cities of Sidon and Tyre, which are located in modern day Lebanon. **Matthew 15:21**

I introduced the idea of a virtual time run in the series, "The Origin of Jesus" as a way of explaining predestination and free will from a different viewpoint.¹ **Romans 8:28-30**

I was born in Sweden at the outset of World War 2 and started first grade in 1946 a year after the war ended. The technology was somewhat backwards compared to the United States. My family had a radio and telephone. When we made a call, we were connected to an operator, who asked what number we wanted to call, and then dialed it for us. My parents bought their first black and white television in 1959. During my years from grade school to college, I performed all calculations by hand or through a slide ruler.

When I emigrated from Sweden to the United States in 1963, I started working at an engineering office and was introduced to a mechanical calculator. Two years later the state of Utah purchased a computer system that appropriated a large portion of the floor above my office. I was told to write the calculations that I wanted to do and submit them to a clerk in the computer department and the next day I had a printout of what I sought.

Aina and I had a rotary telephone and a black and white television since color was very expensive in the 1960s. All my writing was carried out on a manual typewriter and I used an ink duplicator turned by hand to print my Bible studies.

My first cell phone in 1987 came with a large battery and a bulky case that weighed around three pounds. I purchased my first computer in 1990 and got hooked up to the infantile internet.

As technology increased, engineers stopped using a drafting table as everything is now designed with software on a computer. This is where my understanding opened up concerning the Godhead's omnipotence and omniscience.

Before God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit started our creation, they designed everything in a super computer that allowed them to perform a virtual time run of the creation. **Hebrews 4:3; Revelation 13:8**

This virtual time run allowed the Godhead to see how free will would play out before the actual creation took place. This means that the Godhead performed a complete time run from the beginning in eternity past all the way up to the Great White Throne Judgment.

What does this mean for us today? Each angel and human being was bestowed with free will during this virtual run, effectively allowing the Godhead to see how the

¹ <https://www.eaec.org/webcast-2020.htm>



respective lives and events would unfold. Therefore, after the actual creation took place, the Godhead was not surprised when Lucifer instigated a rebellion among the angels or that Adam and Eve chose to embrace sin. They had already seen the individual choices and events played out.

MY PERSONAL STORY

It was determined in eternity past that I would be an evangelist/pastor. One of my aunts held me as a baby and prayed for God to make me into a preacher. **Jeremiah 1:4-5**

I remember at the age of three a Pentecostal pastor taking the time to explain a picture of the Marriage Feast of the Lamb to me. I told him, "I am going to be there". Two years later the Holy Spirit led a Sunday school teacher to share the plan of salvation with me and lead me in a prayer to receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

That same year, my parents took me to observe a funeral procession for American airmen who had died in their B-17 bombers over Germany and their planes had landed in Sweden. Watching the caskets on flatbed trucks, with surviving airmen marching behind, a booming voice spoke inside me, "These are your people, someday you are going where they live." From that day forward, I knew I would move to America.

It would be a long and difficult road before the Godhead led me to America. I was demon possessed since I was conceived out of wedlock. I rebelled against the Lord at the age of thirteen and became caught up in the world. I embraced thievery and turned into a gang leader. I drank alcohol, smoked, and fornication became a lifestyle for me. I failed in school and had to repeat classes. I got into a fight and stabbed a man with my knife.

The Godhead had picked a wife for me and I met her on a train. Even though I was backslidden, I knew this woman was for me. We started dating and eventually I talked her into moving in together. We were married a year later, and on the day I graduated from college in 1963, we left for America.

It was the grace of God that saved me from being drafted and sent to Vietnam. In 1965 the Godhead pulled the plug on my sinful lifestyle after watching a Billy Graham television special and the Holy Spirit convicted me and I rededicated my life to Christ.

I met a Southern Baptist pastor from a local viewing of a Billy Graham movie. He would go on to disciple me, and on April 16, 1967, I finally came into my calling when I was licensed to preach the Gospel. I am still preaching the Gospel some 56 years later.

THE STORY OF THE SPARROW

With this background, it is easy to understand when Jesus said that even a small and insignificant sparrow falling to the ground is known to God the Father. The number of hairs on your head is known to God. **Matthew 10:29-31**

The project of incarnating the Son of God was planned out in the virtual time run. The Godhead picked out everyone who would be involved such as Zacharias/Elizabeth and Joseph/Mary. This can also be seen in the choice of the apostles. Jesus did not advertise that he needed men; He went in person and handpicked each man since He knew who they were from the virtual time run. **John 1:35-50**

This now brings us to the story of the woman from Canaan. The Godhead saw her in the virtual time run and it was decided that Jesus would take a break in Galilee and walk to the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

THE WOMAN OF CANAAN

Jesus left Galilee with the apostles and walked to the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, somewhere between Sidon and Tyre. The trek was about 35 miles and they traveled through a mountainous area. This strenuous journey most likely took two days to complete.

Mark stated that Jesus did not want anyone to know that he had come to the borders of Tyre and Sidon and that He lodged in a house. But even among the Gentiles, He was famous for his supernatural powers, and a certain woman with a daughter vexed by an unclean spirit sought help from Jesus. **Mark 7:24-26**

Matthew stated that an anonymous Canaanite woman approached the God-man. She was clearly aware of His reputation as a miracle worker and had had power of demons and sickness since she addressed him as "Lord, you son of David." **verse 22**

Uncharacteristically, Jesus did not respond to her and the disciples coldly told Jesus to send her away. **verse 23**

It is important to understand the culture at this time in history. A woman had little value and females were not supposed to approach an unknown man. She had broken an unwritten code with a group of unfamiliar men. She could face a severe beating for daring to speak to a group of men she did not know.

Jesus finally responded and told the woman that He only ministered to people from the twelve tribes of Israel. **verse 24**

Instead of getting angry, she approached Jesus and worshiped him, asking Him to help her nonetheless. **verse 25**

Jesus responded that it was not good to take the food from the children and give it to dogs, more or less equating her with a mongrel. **verse 26**

HARSH TREATMENT

Why would Jesus treat her in such a manner? Jesus repeated the mantra what Jews believed at that time; namely, that Gentiles did not have a soul and were like animals.

Jesus had previously told the apostles not to preach to Gentiles or Samaritans. **Matthew 10:5-6**

Sometime later, the God-man and the disciples traveled through Samaria where He struck up a conversation with a Samaritan woman. **John 4:3-9**

The Samaritans were a leftover people from the northern tribes conquered and carried away by the Assyrians. When Babylon defeated Assyria, a number of them filtered back to Israel. The Jews did not accept them because they married Gentiles.

Nevertheless, the Samaritans maintained their faith in the Old Testament and looked toward the Messiah. This is why Jesus decided to stay in the area for a couple of days.

We know that after the resurrection, Jesus instructed the apostles to go out into the world and teach all nations. **Matthew 28:18-20**

My personal belief is that Jesus wanted to test the Canaanite woman to see if she was genuine and show the apostles what true faith can do for a person.

The woman refused to be intimidated. She loved her daughter with such intensity that she did not care if she was humiliated. This is why she told Jesus that even dogs eat the crumbs that fall off the table. **Matthew 15:27**

Jesus acknowledged her faith, granted her request, and immediately her daughter was healed. **verse 28; Mark 7:29**

Most people today are easily offended. What would you say if Jesus called you a dog? How would you respond if Jesus declared you were not worthy – as a Gentile – to receive anything from the Lord?

Do you have faith like the Canaanite woman to insist on a favorable response?

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?