

Hope Presbyterian Church
Sermon-Based Bible Study

July 12, 2026

"Persistence"

#3 in the series *Divine Disruptions*

Scripture Text (NIV)

Matthew 15:21-28, Matthew 19:13-14,
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Philippians 4:6



1. Have you ever reached a point of near exhaustion when all you wanted was to rest and regroup - even if only for a few moments when you could be free of the demands of family, work, or other responsibilities?
 - What emotions have you felt in those situations?
 - What are the best ways you've found to navigate those stressful times?
2. **Read Matthew 15:21-22.**

Traveling with his disciples, Jesus was anticipating a time of rest from his teaching and preaching when he encountered a woman desperately seeking his help.

 - What important details do we learn about the woman in this "disruption" that Jesus experienced?
 - Given that the woman was a Gentile, how do you account for the way she addressed Jesus?
3. **Read Matthew 15: 23-24.**
 - What do you make of Jesus' initial lack of a response and then his comment about being sent to minister to the "lost sheep of Israel"?
 - How do you respond to the disciples' urging of Jesus to send the woman away and a similar response (**Matthew 19:13-14**) when people brought their children to him for his blessing?
4. **Read Matthew 15: 25-28.**

The woman persists in asking Jesus to heal her demon-possessed daughter; He responds with a metaphor about children and dogs. Consider this clue to interpret the metaphor:

 - Children = the Jews; dogs = Gentiles
 - Why is Jesus' choice of word for dog - *kunarion* - meaning "pet dog" important in understanding his response?
 - How do you interpret the woman's continued persistence?
 - How does her persistence demonstrate her faith in Jesus' ability to heal her daughter?
5. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 and Philippians 4:6.**

When Jesus grants the Canaanite woman's persistent request for healing, He reveals that His kingdom extends beyond the boundaries we often set.

 - How do these verses reinforce the importance of persistence in prayer?
 - Have you ever persisted in praying for someone or something and felt that "heaven was silent"? How did you respond?
 - How is this story about Jesus and the Canaanite woman another lesson in how a disruption became Jesus' ministry?
6. How can we pray for you?