

Lent

devotions

READ:

Mark 7:24-37 ([click to open link](#))

REFLECT:

There's this college kid working in the produce section of a grocery store. A little old lady came up to him and said, "Sonny, I see heads of lettuce here, but can I buy just half a head of lettuce?" He said, "Ma'am I don't know, but I'll go ask the manager." So he looks up and down the aisles until he finds the manager at the back corner of the store. He approaches the manager and said, "Sir, there's an idiot over there who wants to buy half a head of lettuce." Just as he was talking to the manager he caught a glimpse of the lady in his peripheral vision. She had caught up to him. Without skipping a beat he added...and this dear lady wants to buy the other half!"

The manager picked up on what the employee had done. After helping the woman, he said, "Son, you're pretty sharp. Where are you from?" He said, "I'm from Minneapolis, Minnesota; home of the world's ugliest women and greatest football players." The manager frowned and said, "Son, my wife is from Minneapolis." Once again, without missing a beat, the employee said, "Really, what team did she play for?"

Like that boy, this Gentile woman had a quick wit. But Jesus didn't just admire this woman's wit—He admired her faith and for her, that faith paid off.

She had a bold faith. It was strong enough that she was willing to approach Jesus.

She didn't give up. When insulted (Jesus essentially called her a dog), remained even tempered, and replied with quick wit.

She was content with leftovers. Her faith showed that she knew even the crumbs from the table of God are powerful.

Jesus replied to this faithful woman, saying her response had passed his test. Her daughter had been healed.

How do you respond to challenges, rejection, or tests of faith from God. Do you continue to pray for the things you desire, the things you believe God desires for you, or do you walk away the first time you hear, "no," or when you don't get an answer right away

RESPOND:

James 5:16b, says "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." If you don't already have one, start a prayer journal today. Write your prayers down, include the date you began praying them. Keep track of how, and when, God answers your prayers. As you pray each day, keep in mind, persistence pays off, bold faith is rewarded, and it's important to be content with whatever God gives you.