# A Pattern for PERSISTENCE

We can learn many lessons by observing how and when Jesus prayed, and what He asked for. But what about the prayers Jesus *answered* during His ministry? What touched His heart? What requests motivated Him? How were the petitions presented?

One example provides insight into the power of persistence. Matthew 15:21-28 gives us an account of a Canaanite woman who came to Jesus, interceding on behalf of her daughter.

*"A Canaanite woman from that vicin­ity came to him, crying out, 'Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession. 'Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, 'Send her away, for she keeps* crying *out after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.' The woman came and knelt before him. 'Lord, help me!' she said. He replied, 'It* is not *right to take the children's bread and loss it to their dogs.' 'Yes, Lord,' she said, 'but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered, 'Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.' And her daughter was healed from that very hour."*

In this brief account, six ele­ments of persistence appear as the woman presents her request lo God the Son.

### Acknowledge who God is.

The Canaanite woman declared Jesus to be Master and Messiah: "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

### Be specific about the need.

She did not tell Him how to answer, but specifically outlined the need: "My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession."

### Don't give up in the face of silence.

When Jesus did not answer a word, she kept the request before Him.

### Ignore the negative remarks of others.

When the disciples opposed her request, she did not become discouraged.

### Be humble.

She came and knelt before Him and responded affirma­tively when reminded of her lowly position. "'Yes, Lord,' she said, 'but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.'"

### Stand firm.

She continued to ask until she received an answer: "Then Jesus answered, 'Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.' And her daughter was healed from that very hour."

—S. Higley, *Pray!* editorial assistant