

"Can You Hear Me Now?"

Ralph Rittenhouse

7/27/08

"Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Gentile woman who lived there came to him, pleading, 'Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! For my daughter is possessed by a demon that torments her severely.' But Jesus gave her no reply, not even a word. Then his disciples urged him to send her away. 'Tell her to go away,' they said. 'She is bothering us with all her begging.' Then Jesus said to the woman, 'I was sent only to help God's lost sheep-the people of Israel.' But she came and worshiped him, pleading again, 'Lord, help me!' Jesus responded, 'It isn't right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs.' She replied, 'That's true, Lord, but even dogs are allowed to eat the scraps that fall beneath their master's table.' 'Dear woman,' Jesus said to her, 'Your faith is great. Your request is granted.' And her daughter was instantly healed." Matthew 15:21-28

REASONS FOR UNANSWERED PRAYER

1. IF THE REQUEST IS WRONG, GOD WILL SAY "NO."

"Father, everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me." Mark 14:36

2. IF THE TIMING IS WRONG, GOD WILL SAY, "SLOW."

"My ways are higher than your ways; my thoughts are higher than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:9

3. IF YOU ARE WRONG, GOD WILL SAY "GROW."

"The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil." 1 Peter 3:12