



## CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: MINISTRY TO ME

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

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TEXT: MATTHEW 15:21-28

TITLE: I HAVE HOPE BECAUSE THEY HAD HOPE

### INTRODUCTION: HOW DID THEY DO IT?

- A. Henry Berry made this statement in the Virginia House of Delegates, “We have, as far as possible closed every avenue by which light may enter their minds; we have only to go one step further – to extinguish the capacity to see the light, and our work would be completed; they would then be on the level of the beast of the fields and we then should be safe...” Praise God, our ancestors’ capacity to see the light was not extinguished and their desire to absorb more and more light was ignited.
- B. Consider the story of the enslaved mother who working in the field, and left her infant in a trough at the end of the row. Heavy rain began to downpour, however, she could not stop to check on her infant. When she finished the row, now having opportunity to check on her child, her child had drowned.
- C. Sojourner Truth: Escaped slavery, later saying, “I did not run off, for I thought that wicked, but I walked off, believing that to be all right.” She sued and won the return of her son illegally sold away to the south. She brought a street car to a standstill and forced the conductor to let her ride. She stood up to threatening crowds who tried to stop her from speaking. One hostile white man told her that the hall where she was scheduled to appear would be burnt down if she spoke, she replied, “Then I will speak to the ashes.”
- D. Contemporary families say, “We do not have time and energy...” Imagine what our mothers and grandmothers accomplished daily without electricity, indoor plumbing, microwaves, processed and pre-prepared foods, dishwashers, washers and dryers, vacuum cleaners, electric kitchen appliances, etc.
- E. Therefore: We need to reach back and grab onto, strongly  
the faith that empowered our ancestors to continue working, while still dark  
anticipating, with full hope  
the actualization of their dreams, while yet afar  
through those whom they loved, not yet born.

Jesus departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon, entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. And behold, a woman of Canaan [who heard about Jesus] came from that region and cried out to Him, saying,

“Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.”

### DISREGARDED

But He answered her not a word.

### DISMISSED

“Send her away, for she cries out after us.”

### DISCOUNTED

“I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

“Lord, help me!”

### DISRESPECTED

“It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.”

“Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.”

### YET, SHE DID IT

“O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.”