

# What Would Jesus Do?

*Promise: Jesus rescues the desperate who cry out to Him*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isa 56:1, 6-8; Ps 67; Ro 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32; Ma 15:21-28

(11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 15), 8/16/20)

*[Jesus] answered [her], "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." – v. 30*

**Lead In** – In 1896 a religious, fiction novel written by Charles Sheldon became a best seller. It is entitled "In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?" Nearly a century later, the abbreviation of the last part of the title, WWJD, became popular, especially on bracelets to be worn. What would Jesus Do? This consideration has some merit. It also has significant limitations as well. Before I end, I will suggest a different abbreviation to assist us as baptized believers...

## I. One of Many Situations WWJD Not Helpful

- A. When encountering a stranger or foreigner...
- B. Just last week's lesson, the same could be said...
- C. The Incarnate Son of God knew what He was doing!

## II. Why Is Jesus Seemingly Only Interested in Israel?

- A. Israel plays a unique role in our salvation...
- B. Chosen and blessed, but for all the world...
- C. Even their rejection is part of the plan...

## III. We Learn From the Woman's Commendable Faith

- A. Two Gentiles work favorably into Gospels...
- B. She is in a most desperate state... severely oppressed
- C. What it takes to know we are in desperate state?

**Parting Shot** – I want to suggest an abbreviation even more helpful than WWJD. It is WWDPD. And it stands for "What would a desperate person do?" A desperate person is a humble person. It is a person who is unafraid to cry out for help. It is a person who will cling to the rescuer for and during the rescue. It is a person who will ever remain grateful. And Jesus is the Savior to whom we cry out...

**Mt 10:5-6** These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

**Mt 28:19** "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

**Ge 12:2** "And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."

**Ge 12:3c** "and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

## Matthew 15:21-28 ESV

*The Faith of the Canaanite Woman*

<sup>21</sup>And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

<sup>22</sup>And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." <sup>24</sup>He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." <sup>26</sup>And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." <sup>27</sup>She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

In **Isa 42:6** and **Isa 49:6** Israel is described as a "light to the nations" through whom salvation would come to all people.

**Ro 9:4-5** They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

**Ro 11:15** For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?

**Mt 8:10** When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith."

**The Kyrie:** Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Luther Expl to part of 2<sup>nd</sup> Art:** "At great cost he has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil – not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death."

WWDPD What Would a Desperate Person Do?

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WWDPD What Would a Desperate Person Do?

## Psalm 67

- <sup>1</sup>May God be merciful to **us**  
and bless us,\*  
    show us the light of his countenance,  
    and **come** to us.
- <sup>2</sup>Let your ways be known **upon** earth,\*  
    your saving health **among** all nations.
- <sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise **you**, O God;\*  
    let all the **peoples** praise you.
- <sup>4</sup>Let the nations be glad and **sing** for joy,\*  
    for you judge the peoples with equity  
    and guide all the nations **upon** earth.
- <sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise **you**, O God;\*  
    let all the **peoples** praise you.
- <sup>6</sup>The earth has brought **forth**  
her increase;\*  
    may God, our own God,  
    give **us** his blessing.
- <sup>7</sup>May God give **us** his blessing,\*  
    and may all the ends of the earth  
    stand in **awe** of him.

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