

**“You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilization to pieces, turn the world upside down and bring peace to a battle-torn planet. But you treat it as though it is nothing more than a piece of literature.”**

**— Mahatma Gandhi**

# **Canaanite Woman**

**The first of only two women who  
address Jesus directly in Matthew's  
Gospel**

**Jesus is less than eager to help this woman,**

**However, Jesus is the one who has left Jewish territory and invaded this woman's world.**

**This Canaanite woman — an unclean, outsider — demonstrates that she has a better grasp of Jesus' identity than the hand-selected disciples do at this point in the narrative.**

**Jesus' encounter with the Canaanite woman unsettles boundaries and calls into question definitions of clean and unclean.**

**The woman greets Jesus as the “Son of David.”**

**Her recognition is all the more remarkable because the disciples have been a bit slow in recognizing Jesus.**

**In Matthew 14,  
after walking on the sea,  
they recognize Jesus as the Son  
of God,**

**Not until 16:16 that Peter  
declares Jesus as Messiah**

**The disciples, too, seem to think that Jesus should stay focused on the needs of Israel.**

**They kept telling him to send her away (gr. Loose her) because they are tired of hearing her cries for help (15:23).**

**She does something that is  
significant in this Gospel:  
she kneels before him.**



**Jesus responds to challenges from  
the scribes and Pharisees by  
reframing the boundaries of clean  
and unclean.**

# **Does God Change?**

**Read what the bible says  
happened at Pentecost**

**God is constantly entering new territory and breaking boundaries.**

**This God is in the unsettling business of meeting outsiders and granting them not just a crumb, but a place at the table.**