



## WILL JESUS ANSWER HIM?

### Slide 1

Imagine Arthur chatting with his father:

**Slide 2** - Yes, Daddy, give it to me, I need it!

**Slide 3** - Stop Arthur, can't you see that I have too much work, how many times have you asked me? I told you "no!", **Slide 4** do not insist.

**Slide 5** But Arthur does insist. He wants his father to give him what he asks for, he needs it. Maybe one day you too insisted on getting something you really wanted, something you really needed. Today, is the story of **Slide 6** a woman who, too, will press Jesus to answer her prayer. At the end of the story, you can answer my question: **Slide 7** Why did this woman insist? Let's listen now. You will find this story in **Slide 8** chapter 15 of the Gospel of Matthew.

### **Slide 9** WHY IS THIS WOMAN INSISTING SO MUCH?

**Slide 10** No cars, **Slide 11** no bikes, **Slide 12** no plane **Slide 13** or train! So how do we move about? **Slide 14** Well, we walk. **Slide 15** Everyone can walk, children, young people, old people, we go about on foot. And Jesus, how does he do it? **Slide 16** Like the others, he travels for kilometers on foot to visit the towns and villages of Israel. **Slide 17** He must tell the people of his country the good news of the love of God. **Slide 18** When they see him, the same thing always happens:

**Slide 19** - Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming! He is with his disciples! I saw him, he is there. News of his arrival spread at full speed.

**Slide 20** The men come back from the fields, **Slide 21** the workers stop their work, **Slide 22** the mothers take the children with them, and everyone **Slide 23** runs to see him, to hear him.

**Slide 24** Not forgetting the sick because now all over the country **Slide 25** they have learned that he heals and works extraordinary miracles.

Imagine, everyday **Slide 26** Jesus and his disciples are surrounded by a crowd of people, it is tiring, exhausting. When they try to stand away in a private place, **Slide 27** people manage to find them When Jesus sees them, will he send them away? No, of course he

explains the Word of God to them, encourages them and does them good.

**Slide 28** But where will Jesus and his disciples finally be able to rest a little? Jesus decides

**Slide 29** to leave his country hoping to find elsewhere some rest far from the crowds

**Slide 30** Accompanied by his disciples, he heads north and arrives **Slide 31** in Phoenicia.

Phoenicia, do you know what this country is called today? **Slide 32** This is Lebanon. Maybe you have heard about Lebanon. So Jesus is in this foreign land hoping that **Slide 33** no one will recognize him there. He hides. But for how long? ...

**Slide 34** A woman learns of his coming. Definitely Jesus cannot remain hidden! **Slide 35** She's not Jewish, she's a foreigner, she's Greek. At this time it is difficult for foreign woman to approach a Jew.

**Slide 36** But the drama she is experiencing pushes her to go towards Jesus. She is desperate:

**Slide 37** - Lord, she cries, have mercy on me! **Slide 38** My daughter is suffering terribly; she is cruelly tormented by a demon. **Slide 39** Lord, come and deliver her, have pity of her.

Jesus does not answer a word ... She continues to beg him, she insists:

**Slide 40** - Have mercy on me! Save my daughter!

**Slide 41** Jesus still does not respond. Finally, the disciples are annoyed, they intervene:

**Slide 42** - Send her away; they say to Jesus, do what she asks of you, she won't stop following us and she tires us with her cries!

**Slide 43** - But, I was sent only for the people of Israel, Jesus answers.

However the woman is not discouraged, she bows down before Jesus:

**Slide 44** - Lord, Lord, help me, help me, she begs.

**Slide 45** - It is not right to take the children's bread **Slide 46** and throw it to the little dogs, replies Jesus.

**Slide 47** - Yes, Lord, that's true, but the little dogs feed on the crumbs that fall from the table of their masters.

**Slide 48** - Oh! You have great faith, Jesus answers, because of what you have said, what you believe, because of your faith, **Slide 49** go, go home, the demon has just left your daughter.

Imagine the joy of this mother; **Slide 50** she goes home and finds her child resting calmly on her bed, completely delivered.

**Slide 51 1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!**

What answer can we give at our question: **Slide 52** Why did this woman insist? This mother is **Slide 53** terribly miserable to see her child in pain and **Slide 54** she believes that Jesus can bless her. **Slide 55** What exactly does she believe? **Slide 56** She believes that Jesus is almighty to heal her child, **Slide 57** She believes he came to earth to do good for the Jews but also for everyone else, whatever their country, their nationality, and therefore also for her child. **Slide 58** She believes that if Jesus gives her a crumb, even so little as a crumb, if he gives her a crumb of his blessings that is enough for her little girl to be delivered from evil powers. This is what Jesus said to her:

**Slide 59** - Woman, your faith is great, I answer yes! To your prayer, go, your child is delivered.

This story encourages you and me to keep faith, to continue to trust in Jesus even in difficult times.

**Slide 60 4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!**

I think we all agree that this woman's faith was tested It was Jesus himself who contributed to this testing. But by his refusal, didn't he point to the disciples and to us, what was in this woman's heart, her real and total trust?

Jesus knows the deep thoughts of our hearts, **Slide 61** he knows how weak or strong our faith is, our trust in him. How we would like Jesus to say to us too:

**Slide 62** - Oh! Your faith is really big.

Our children would thus have before their eyes a model of stubborn faith even in difficult moments. So our faith... how do we make it grow? **Slide 63** The good bread that nourishes her is **Slide 64** the Word of God. So let me tell you? Enjoy!, the table is ready and the food is abundant

**Slide 65**