

WHEN JESUS ACTS STRANGELY

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Matthew 15:28 (ESV)

There are seasons in our walk with Christ when His ways feel **strange**—almost unsettling. We pray, we pursue, we obey, yet Jesus seems silent, distant, or even resistant. Scripture shows us that these moments are not signs of abandonment, but invitations to maturity.

In Matthew 15:21–28, the Syrophenician woman approaches Jesus desperate for her daughter's healing. What follows is a **strange** exchange. Jesus does not answer her at first. He appears to exclude her from His mission and speaks words that sound harsh to the human ear. By all logic, this encounter should have ended in offense and withdrawal. But she stayed.

Jesus was not pushing her away—He was drawing her faith out. What looked like resistance was actually refinement. Jesus knew she would not leave because He saw something deeper at work. He allowed obstacles to reveal the quality of her faith. When her faith was fully expressed, Jesus released what had been waiting all along: 'O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you desire.'

When Jesus acts strangely toward us, it is often because He is working more deeply within us. His silence is not absence—it is invitation. He delays at times to deepen our trust in His character rather than our dependence on outcomes. He allows obstacles to purify our motives and may even appear distant—not to deny us, but to develop perseverance.

Many believers experience the paradox of praying earnestly while circumstances grow worse. This is often Jesus beginning His "obstacles ministry." He is not punishing us; He is preparing us. Faith that is not tested cannot stand in battle.

The combination of mounting pressures and a seemingly absent Saviour can discourage the heart. Yet this is where great faith is formed. Like the Syrophenician woman, we are called to stay—humble, persistent, and hungry—refusing to walk away in the strange middle.

When Jesus acts strangely, the real question is not what He is doing, but how we will respond. Great faith is not proven by immediate miracles, but by unwavering trust in uncomfortable seasons.

Bring your unanswered prayer back to Jesus today. Lay aside offense, assumptions, and timelines. Stay when He is silent. Worship when answers delay. Trust when His ways feel **strange**. Believe again—not because circumstances have changed, but because Jesus has not.

The strange season will not last forever. "... with great compassion I will gather you... no weapon formed against you shall prosper" (Isaiah 54:7, 17).

The silence will break. The obstacle will move. And the same Jesus who seems distant now will soon turn toward you and say: "Your faith is great. Let it be done for you." Stay. **Your miracle is closer than you think.**

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, when Your ways feel strange, help me to stay. Purify my faith, strengthen my perseverance, and teach me to trust Your heart even when I do not understand Your hands. I surrender my timelines, my expectations, and my unanswered prayers to You. Form great faith in me, and let Your purposes be fulfilled in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.