

Creekside Community Church  
*"The Return of the King"* The Gospel of Matthew  
November 19, 2017  
John Bruce - Pastor

**When God Says No**  
(Matthew 15:21-28)

**A. When God Says No**

**B. Why God Says No**

**C. What to Do When God Says No**

**For further thought and discussion:**

**Getting Started**

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. Can you remember a time when God said no to you? What did you want Him to do? Why do you think He didn't do what you asked? What was the outcome?

**Going Deeper**

3. Please read Matthew 15:21-28. What is strange about this story? What do you notice about this woman? What do you notice about Jesus' disciples? What do you notice about Jesus?
4. Why does Jesus tell the woman that her faith is great? Why was Jesus' behavior a test of the woman's faith? What lessons do you think Jesus' disciples learned from this incident?
5. Why does God test our faith? (James 1:3, 1 Peter 1:6-7, 4:12-13) What is the biggest test of faith you have ever experienced? What was the result of this test in your life?
6. What do the following passages teach us about why God sometimes says no? (Matthew 6:1, 5-8, 14, James 4:1-5, Prov. 21:13) Can you identify a prayer that wasn't answered for one of these reasons in your own experience?
7. What does Mark 11:22-24 teach us about answered prayers? Why is persistence in prayer an evidence of faith? (Luke 18:1-8)
8. Please read 2 Cor. 12:7-10. How long should we keep asking if God doesn't immediately answer our prayer?

**Application:** What is one lesson you've learned from this passage and how will you apply it to your life?