

GIVE IN or GIVE UP?

The topic in our Ladies' Class tonight was how we envisioned ourselves approaching Jesus if we could have been there when He walked in His earthly form. The scriptures were from Matthew and Mark's account of the Gentile woman who dared to intrude on Jesus and the disciples' gathering to plead for her daughter's healing. Points made were her boldness, her persistence, and her wisdom in acknowledging her lowliness as Jesus compared her request with that of feeding the house dogs before the children. She said yes, but she would be satisfied with just the crumbs that fall from the table of the children. Whatever it might take, she saw the Lord as her little girl's only hope and she would not stop short of His favor.

Our discussion evolved to just how *do* we, today, approach the Lord. Boldly, or with meekness; petitioning once, or persistently repeating the same plea? Humbly, or seeking our own as Salome who asked that her sons be given prominent positions in Jesus' kingdom? What might Jesus think of any one of us concerning the things we ask, or the manner in which we ask? I ventured an answer aloud saying He would likely tell me, "Who are you to suggest over and over how I work in the things you ask?" He might remind me that (as He did Job) I was nowhere around when He created the mountains, the planets, or the stars. What I said next was a bit surprising to myself and had I given it fore thought, I'd have phrased it differently. But later as I walked out into the cold night air, I realized I had said it the way it ought to be said. In our group I was thinking, I think, that it is just so hard to give up on asking for something we've been asking for a long time. Instead, I said (and I was starting to feel tearful so I hurried) "It's just so hard to give in". If I stop praying a prayer, am I giving **up** or giving **in**? How dare I even think of giving up? That attitude is to think God isn't listening, or maybe limiting His ability in my mind to do anything about it. Give up on the prayer I've prayed for years? On the other hand, giving *in*, is to say, "All right, I must be asking for something beyond my knowledge, and in Your wisdom which is beyond my imagination, Lord, You know what is best. I want to give in to your plan, and not miss out on the wonders of that. Search my heart, clear out any selfish reasoning, and work your amazing grace in the answers to my prayers. Enable me to see your unique

handiwork - and be like a child opening a present with whatever those answers are. Let me be thrilled with knowing I have a new day full of possibilities every day and excited to see what you have in store for me rather than expecting my ideas to unfold. Forgive me of my human doubts, increase my faith, and remember please the things I have folded within my heart.”

Yet I’m still stretched between the heart and the head. My head says, He knows, and you don’t have to keep asking. My heart pushes tears to my eyes and says, no I just can’t close this day, this prayer, without bringing it to Him once more. And if I feel a final “no” is the answer, I will not give up, I will give in. I will still be grateful. I will still be a child of the King. The sun will still rise in the East and the birds will still sing.