

# The Challenge of Faith

God Said

Matthew 15:21

What?!

When God Doesn' t Make Sense

**WHY DOES  
OUR FAITH  
HAVE TO GET  
CHALLENGED?**

**Has Your Faith Ever Been Challenged?**

**There are Times...**

**Satan Challenges Us to Produce...**

**“DOUBT”**

**But God Allows Challenges to Produce...**

**“DETERMINATION”**

**Either Way**

**It Starts By Bringing Us to a...**

**“Crisis of Faith”**

**How We Respond Will Determine Our...**

**“Destination”**

**Faith That Has  
Not Been Tested  
Cannot Be  
Trusted**



**What Did...**

**• Abraham**

**• Moses**

**• Saul**

**• David**

**• Jeremiah**

**• Disciples**

**• Paul**

**• Demas**

**...Have In Common?**





**What Did...**

**• Abraham**

**• Moses**

**• Saul**

**• David**

**• Jeremiah**

**• Disciples**

**• Paul**

**• Demas**

**...Have In Common?**

**They All Had Their Faith  
“Challenged”**

**It Came as a  
“Crisis of Faith”**

**Some Did Great  
Others Not So Great  
This Woman was About  
to Discover this Too**





**This Little Story Is**

- **Confusing In Many Ways**
- **Not Given a Lot of Attention**

**But It Does Give Insight When Our Faith is Challenged**

- **This Mom's Daughter Was Experiencing a Hardship...**
  - ...Out Of Mom's Control**
  - ...She Doesn't Understand**
  - ...So She Takes it to Jesus**
  - ...Now She Really Doesn't Understand**
- **All of Us Can Relate to the Tests She Went Through...**
  - ...And Her Success Can Give Us All Encouragement**



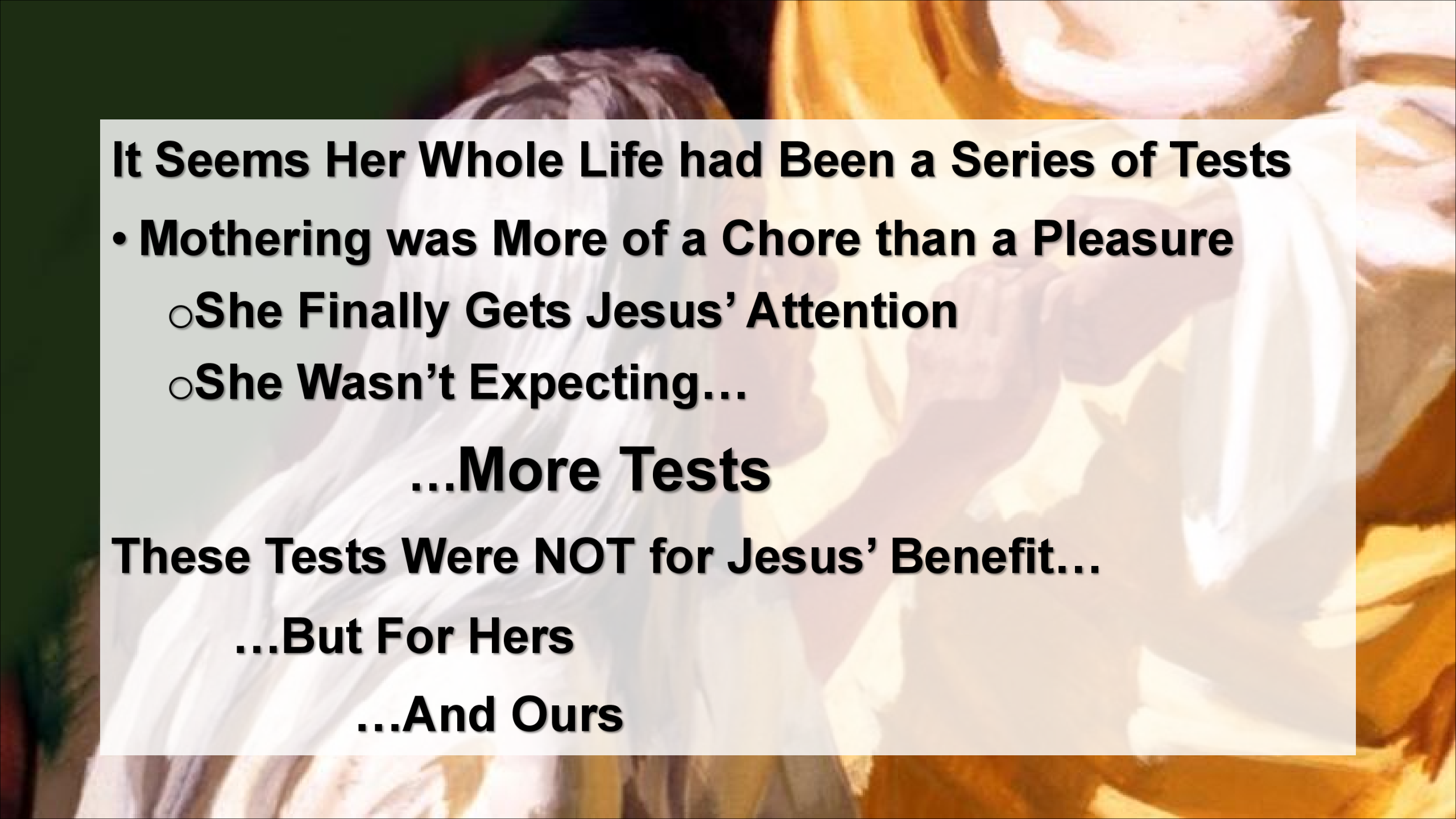
# **Empowered By Great Love**

**Her Love was More Powerful than Her...**

- Unworthiness**
- Fear**
- Shame**
- Hardship And Sacrifice Combined**

# **Great Love**





**It Seems Her Whole Life had Been a Series of Tests**

- **Mothering was More of a Chore than a Pleasure**

- **She Finally Gets Jesus' Attention**

- **She Wasn't Expecting...**

**...More Tests**

**These Tests Were NOT for Jesus' Benefit...**

**...But For Hers**

**...And Ours**

If you're interested, you  
will do what is convenient;  
if you're committed, you'll  
do whatever it takes.

# **She Passed the Test of Patience... ...During Divine Silence (23)**

***But He answered her not a word.***

- **Has God Ever Been Silent When You Pray?**

- **God's Silence Is Not Neglect.**

***"When Nothin's Happenin'; Somethin's Happenin'."***

- **God's Timetable Is Not Ours...**

**... And God's Wisdom Exceeds Ours.**

- **God Sees A Bigger Picture...**

**...And Seeks To Fashion Us Into Jesus' Image.**

- **He Hones Our Faith, Trust, Patience...**



# **She Passed the Test of... ...Doubt / Discouragement (23)**

***23 And His disciples came and urged Him,  
saying, “Send her away...”***

- **Hard Times Always Bring Worry, Doubt and Discouragement.**
- **Everything Looks Like the Worst Case Scenario**
- **God Gives Comfort and Assurance That...**

**He Will Walk Through the “Valley Of Death” With Us.**

**Discouragement**

# **She Passed The Test Of Rejection (24)**

*24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."*

- **Have You Ever Felt Rejection From God?**
- **Did You Know There Are Great Heroes In The Bible That Did Too?**
- **Rejection Can Actually Be A Manifestation Of God's Love.**

**Many Have Felt Rejection...**

- **Ruth, Jonah, Jeremiah, King Hezekiah**
- **They All Felt God's Rejection, Sought God And Found His Favor.**

# **She Passed the Test of Humility (26)**

*26 But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.”*

- **She Was At The Mercy Of God.**
- **She Had No Leverage; No Bargaining Chips...**
  - ...Nothing To “Wow” God With Or Offer In Exchange.**
- **Such A Place Makes Us Feel Vulnerable – Even Out Of Control**
  - ...But When Standing Before God, It Is A Safe Place**

WALK BY  
**FAITH**  
NOT BY  
**SIGHT**



# **WALK BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT**

**God Allows These Tests**

**#1- Teach Us to  
“Walk By Faith Not Sight”**

**#2- Prepare Us for  
“Promotion”**





So don't throw it  
all away now.  
You were sure of  
yourselves then. It's  
still a sure thing!  
But you need to stick  
it out, staying with  
God's plan so you'll  
be there for the  
promised completion.

Hebrews 10:35-36



## Faith's Reward

*"O Woman, Your Faith Is Great;  
Be It Done For You As You Wish."*

Still a sure thing!  
But you need to stick  
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## **Faith's Reward**

*"O Woman, Your Faith Is Great;  
Be It Done For You As You Wish."*

**Jesus Certainly Knew This About The Woman's Faith**

- **Great Faith Brings Great Rewards**
  - **It Took Courage**
  - **It Took Commitment**
  - **It Took A Spirit That Refused To Be Deterred**
- **Her Faith Was Tested And Passed The Test**

**Hebrews 10:35-36**



So don't throw it

**This Weeks Assignment**  
**When You Face Adversity**  
**instead of Living in Constant "Why?"**  
**Try Asking God "What"**

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So don't throw it

**This Weeks Assignment**  
**When You Face Adversity**  
**instead of Living in Constant "Why?"**

**Try Asking God "What"**

**Try Thanking God For the Adversity**

**Try Changing Your Outlook**

**From "God why are you letting this happen to me?"**

**To "Thank You God, I realize this Adversity is Happening**  
**FOR ME"**