



---

LORD, HELP MAMA TO  
HOLD OUT!  
MATTHEW 15:21-28

---

**The Power of a Praying Mother's Persistence**



DR. DARRYL T. CANADY  
RODMAN STREET CHURCH  
5.10.26

# **LORD, HELP MAMA TO HOLD OUT!**

**DR. DARRYL T. CANADY**

**MATTHEW 15:21-28**

**5.10.26**

**Title: Lord, Help Mama Hold Out: The Power of a Praying Mother's Persistence**

**Sermon Summary:** This Mother's Day sermon celebrates the perseverance, sacrifice, and prayer life of mothers who hold families together through faith. Using the story of the Canaanite woman who persistently sought Jesus for her daughter's healing, the pastor emphasizes that mothers often labor underground like the Chinese bamboo tree—praying, teaching, and sacrificing for years before seeing results.

The woman's three-word prayer—'Lord, help me'—becomes a template for authentic desperation before God. She refused to be offended by silence, rejection, or seemingly harsh responses. Her persistence teaches us that faith isn't about eloquent prayers or perfect theology; it's about refusing to quit when heaven seems silent. This message challenges us to examine our own persistence in prayer, especially for those we love who seem far from breakthrough. Are we willing to embarrass ourselves before God? Will we keep praying when years pass without visible change? The provision that came to this mother reminds us that persistent faith eventually gets heaven's attention, and that even one crumb from the Master's table can transform an entire life.

The sermon challenges the congregation to remain politically engaged, particularly regarding voting rights and educational opportunities for Black youth. It highlights the church's work in opening LIFE Male

STEAM Academy during the pandemic as an act of faith and obedience to God's call to "save the boys." The central message is that persistent prayer, even when met with divine silence, eventually brings God's provision. Mothers are portrayed as spiritual warriors whose prayers break generational curses and transform lives, even when results aren't immediately visible.

## **Chapters**

### **Chapter 1: The Power of Mothers Who Held On**

We celebrate mothers who held families together through prayer, sacrifice, and persistence, recognizing that many of us are here today because of praying mothers who refused to quit.

### **Chapter 2: The Woman's Petition: Crying Out to Jesus**

We examine the Canaanite woman's desperate petition for her demon-possessed daughter, learning that real mothers eventually learn to pray and bring their burdens to Jesus.

### **Chapter 3: The Woman's Persistence: Refusing to Quit Despite Silence**

We discover that persistent faith gets heaven's attention, even when God appears silent, just as the Chinese bamboo tree grows underground before breaking through.

## **Chapter 4: The Woman's Provision: One Crumb Can Change Everything**

We see that persistent faith leads to provision when the woman declares even dogs eat crumbs, and Jesus grants her request, demonstrating that one crumb from Jesus can change everything.

### **Key Points:**

- Mothers hold families together through prayer, sacrifice, and persistence during difficult times
- Like the Chinese bamboo tree, mothers' work often happens "underground" for years before breakthrough comes
- The Canaanite woman's petition, persistence, and provision serve as a model for faithful prayer
- Divine silence does not mean divine abandonment—God is working even when we don't see it
- The church must remain engaged in social justice issues, particularly voting rights and education
- LIFE Male STEAM Academy was born from a 9-1-1 call from God in 2014 to "save the boys"
- Persistent faith eventually gets heaven's attention
- Sometimes we only need "crumbs" from the Master's table to experience transformation
- A praying mother is dangerous to the enemy because she can break generational curses

- Prayer should continue even when answers seem delayed—"Lord, help me to hold out until my change comes"

### **Scripture Reference:**

- Matthew 15:21-28 (Primary text: The Canaanite woman seeking healing for her demon-possessed daughter)
- Isaiah 40:31 ("They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength")
- References to David's genealogical promise and Jesus as Son of David
- Jesus praying three times in the Garden of Gethsemane
- Paul's thorn in the flesh and God's sufficient grace

### **Stories:**

- The Chinese bamboo tree parable: A tree that shows no growth above ground for four years, then grows 90 feet in the fifth year, illustrating how mothers' prayers work underground before breakthrough
- The pastor's personal testimony about his grandmother who raised him, prayed for him, and died one month before his Morehouse graduation
- The opening of LIFE Male STEAM Academy in September 2021 during the pandemic in building 7 with 7 floors at address 777, born from a vision received on September 11, 2014
- The pastor's grandmother staying awake until he and his brother came home safely, even when they were out late at clubs
- The story of students at LIFE Male STEAM Academy who were 2-4 grades behind but are being helped to reach their potential

- Personal testimony about the pastor's wife Reverend Taleeta being hospitalized with a poor prognosis but now driving herself and living independently
- Reverend Cornelius Moore supporting the pastor during his wife's eight-week hospitalization after their daughter Essence was born
- The pastor speeding back to the airport after a funeral, praying not to be stopped by police

### **Scripture References from the Sermon**

#### **Explicitly Mentioned:**

1. **Matthew 15:21-28** - Primary text about the Canaanite woman seeking healing for her daughter
  - Verse 21: Jesus withdraws to Tyre and Sidon
  - Verse 22: Canaanite woman cries out for mercy
  - Verse 23: Jesus does not answer; disciples urge Him to send her away
  - Verse 24: Jesus speaks of being sent to the lost sheep of Israel
  - Verse 25: Woman kneels and asks for help
  - Verse 26: Jesus speaks about children's bread and dogs
  - Verse 27: Woman's response about dogs eating crumbs
  - Verse 28: Jesus commends her faith and heals her daughter
2. **Isaiah 40:31** - "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint"

#### **Alluded to or Referenced:**

3. **Luke 22:42 / Matthew 26:39-44** - Jesus praying three times in the Garden of Gethsemane ("not my will, but thine will be done")
4. **2 Corinthians 12:7-9** - Paul's thorn in the flesh and God's response about sufficient grace
5. **Hebrews 4:16** - Entering God's throne room boldly with confidence
6. **2 Chronicles 7:14** (implied) - God's people praying and seeking His face
7. **Matthew 1:1-17 / Luke 3:23-38** - Genealogy of Jesus showing David's lineage
8. **2 Samuel 7:12-16** - God's promise to David about his descendants on the throne

#### **Hymn References (Biblical Themes):**

9. **"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"** - Based on Matthew 7:24-25 (building on solid rock)
10. **"Just a Little Talk with Jesus"** - Based on prayer themes throughout Scripture (Matthew 6:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:17)
11. **"He's a Wheel in the Middle of a Wheel"** - Based on Ezekiel 1:16
12. **"Lily of the Valley"** - Based on Song of Solomon 2:1

#### **Relevant Verses for Major Themes:**

##### **On Persistent Prayer:**

- **Luke 18:1-8** - Parable of the persistent widow
- **1 Thessalonians 5:17** - "Pray without ceasing"

- **Philippians 4:6** - Making requests known to God

### **On Mothers/Parenting:**

- **Proverbs 22:6** - "Train up a child in the way he should go"
- **Proverbs 31:10-31** - The virtuous woman

### **On Faith and Provision:**

- **Hebrews 11:1** - Definition of faith
- **Philippians 4:19** - "My God shall supply all your need"
- **Matthew 7:7-8** - "Ask, and it shall be given you"

### **On God's Timing:**

- **Ecclesiastes 3:1** - "To everything there is a season"
- **Habakkuk 2:3** - The vision awaits its appointed time

### **On Hope:**

- **Romans 15:13** - God of hope
- **Jeremiah 29:11** - Plans to give you hope and a future

### **QUOTES:**

If I can help somebody as I pass along, if I can cheer somebody with a word or song, if I can show somebody who's traveling wrong, then my living shall not be in vain.

The reason why we are here today is because mama did not quit. All the hell you've been through and you are still here, all the pain, all the

discouragement that you have experienced, you ought to thank God that God gave you a spirit that said, I am not going to quit.

Much of what mothers do happen underground. You know a mother prays, but you don't see immediately the results. A mother teaches, but sometimes she doesn't immediately see the results.

Every real mother eventually learns how to pray. Because there are some burdens that motherhood will place on you that only God can handle.

A praying mother is dangerous. A praying mother can cover her children, break generational curses, shift the atmosphere, pull families back together again, and call things out of children that nobody else can see.

One of the hardest tests of faith is when you pray and God appears to be silent. Pray the hardest when it's hardest to pray.

Persistent faith eventually will get heaven's attention. Just because God has not answered it yet doesn't mean that God is ignoring you.

Just one crumb from Jesus can change your whole life. One touch from Jesus can restore your whole family, one word from Jesus can heal your child, one move from Jesus can break that addiction.

**LORD, HELP MAMA TO HOLD OUT!**

**DR. DARRYL T. CANADY**

**MATTHEW 15:21-28**

**5.10.26**

**5-Day Devotional: Holding Out for God's Provision**

**Day 1: The Power of a Mother's Petition**

## **Reading: Matthew 15:21-28**

**Devotional:** The Canaanite woman's desperate cry, "Lord, have mercy on me," teaches us that authentic prayer begins with honest desperation. She didn't come with eloquent words or religious formulas—she came crying out for her suffering daughter. Sometimes we think our prayers must be polished and perfect, but God honors raw, honest petitions from broken hearts. When your child is struggling, when your family is fractured, when you've exhausted every human resource, that's when your petition becomes most powerful. Don't be too proud to cry out to God. Your desperation is not weakness; it's the doorway to divine intervention. God is waiting for you to bring your burdens to Him with the same urgency this mother displayed.

**Reflection:** What burden are you carrying in silence that needs to become a desperate petition before God today?

---

## **Day 2: Persistent Faith in God's Silence**

### **Reading: Psalm 13:1-6**

**Devotional:** "Jesus did not answer a word." These six words represent one of faith's greatest tests—divine silence. The woman kept crying out even when heaven seemed quiet. Silence doesn't mean God isn't listening; it means He's developing something deeper in you. Like the Chinese bamboo tree that grows underground for four years before shooting up ninety feet, God is working beneath the surface of your circumstances. Your persistent prayers are taking root even when you see no evidence above ground. Don't let silence stop your persistence. The disciples wanted Jesus to send her away because she was "doing too much," but her persistence got heaven's attention. Keep praying for your children, your marriage, your healing. Persistent faith eventually breaks through.

**Reflection:** Where has God's silence tempted you to quit praying? Recommit today to persistent faith.

---

### **Day 3: From Crumbs to Complete Provision**

**Reading: Philippians 4:19**

**Devotional:** "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." This woman's humility reveals a profound truth: one crumb from Jesus can change your entire life. We often wait for the whole loaf before we move forward, but God builds provision crumb by crumb. He supplies what you cannot produce yourself. This mother couldn't heal her daughter through willpower, money, or connections—only Jesus could provide what she desperately needed. God's provision isn't always immediate or complete in our timing, but it's always sufficient. One touch from Jesus can restore your family. One word from Him can break addiction. One move of His grace can transform a generation. Stop demanding the whole loaf and start thanking God for the crumbs that are building toward your breakthrough.

**Reflection:** What "crumb" has God already provided that you've overlooked while waiting for more?

---

### **Day 4: Underground Growth and Delayed Breakthroughs**

**Reading: Isaiah 40:28-31**

**Devotional:** Motherhood often feels like the Chinese bamboo tree—years of watering, fertilizing, and waiting with nothing visible to show for it. You pray, teach, sacrifice, and pour love into your children, yet sometimes see no immediate results. But roots are developing underground. What you plant at age five may not break through until age twenty-five. What

seems dormant in middle school may explode into greatness in manhood. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." Waiting isn't passive; it's active trust that God is working beneath the surface. Your prayers are taking root. Your sacrifices are building foundations. Your tears are watering seeds that will one day shoot up with supernatural growth. Don't measure your impact by what you see today. Trust the underground work God is doing.

**Reflection:** What seeds have you planted that require patient waiting for God's timing to bring breakthrough?

---

## **Day 5: Legacy of Praying Mothers**

### **Reading: 2 Timothy 1:3-7**

**Devotional:** Paul acknowledged the "sincere faith" that lived first in Timothy's grandmother Lois and mother Eunice. Generational impact begins with praying mothers who refuse to quit. The prayers of mothers who have passed away continue to bear fruit in their children's lives. They may not live to see you graduate, get ordained, or fulfill your calling, but their prayers planted seeds that keep producing. Every achievement, every deliverance, every moment you stand strong is connected to someone who held out in prayer for you. Now it's your turn to plant seeds for the next generation. Your prayers today are shaping destinies tomorrow. Hold out until your change comes, knowing that even when you don't see the harvest, God is faithful to bring it forth in His perfect timing.

**Reflection:** Whose prayers brought you to where you are today? Whose future are you shaping through your prayers right now?

---

**Closing Prayer:** Lord, help me to hold out. Give me persistence when You are silent, faith when circumstances look impossible, and humility to receive even the crumbs from Your table. Let my prayers plant seeds that will break through in Your perfect timing. Amen.

## **LORD, HELP MAMA TO HOLD OUT!**

**DR. DARRYL T. CANADY**

**MATTHEW 15:21-28**

**5.10.26**

**Small Group Guide: "Lord, Help Mama Hold Out"**

**Opening Prayer (5 minutes)**

**Begin by thanking God for mothers, grandmothers, and spiritual mothers who have prayed persistently for their families and communities.**

---

**Icebreaker Question (10 minutes)**

**Share a memory of someone who prayed for you consistently—what impact did their prayers have on your life?**

---

**Key Scripture**

**Matthew 15:21-28 - The Canaanite Woman's Persistent Faith**

---

**Main Themes**

**1. The Power of Petition (Matthew 15:22)**

The Canaanite woman came to Jesus crying out for her demon-possessed daughter, demonstrating that effective motherhood includes bringing our children's needs to God.

## **2. The Strength of Persistence (Matthew 15:23-27)**

Despite Jesus' initial silence and apparent rejection, the woman refused to give up. She kept pursuing Jesus for her daughter's healing.

## **3. The Promise of Provision (Matthew 15:28)**

Jesus honored her faith, saying "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." Her daughter was healed instantly.

---

## **Discussion Questions**

### **Understanding the Text**

1. Why do you think Jesus initially remained silent when the woman cried out to Him? How does God's silence test and strengthen our faith?
2. The woman said, "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." What does this statement reveal about her humility and desperation?
3. Pastor Canady compared ministry to the Chinese bamboo tree that grows underground for years before breaking through. How does this metaphor apply to prayer and faith?

### **Personal Reflection**

4. The sermon emphasized that "a praying mother is dangerous." What makes persistent prayer so powerful in spiritual warfare?

5. Have you experienced a season when God seemed silent despite your prayers? How did you maintain faith during that time?
6. The woman's prayer was simple: "Lord, help me." When have you found yourself reduced to such a basic, desperate prayer? What happened?

### **Application to Life**

7. Pastor Canady shared how the LIFE Male STEAM Academy was birthed from a "9-1-1 call" from God to "save the boys." What burden or vision has God placed on your heart that requires persistent faith?
8. The sermon mentioned that "silence is never abandonment." How can we encourage someone who feels God isn't answering their prayers?
9. What generational prayers are you praying right now that you may not see answered in your lifetime, but trust God will honor?

---

### **Key Takeaways**

- ✓ Petition matters - Take your problems to Jesus, not just to everyone else
- ✓ Persistence pays off - Don't let silence stop you from getting what God has for you
- ✓ Provision is coming - Persistent faith eventually gets heaven's attention
- ✓ Underground growth is still growth - Like the Chinese bamboo tree, roots are developing even when you can't see progress
- ✓ One crumb can change everything - You don't need the whole loaf; God can work with whatever He gives you

---

## **Practical Applications**

### **This Week's Challenge:**

#### **Choose ONE of the following to practice:**

1. Start a Prayer Journal - Write down specific prayers for your children, grandchildren, or spiritual children. Date each entry and watch for God's answers.
2. Adopt the "Lord, Help Me" Prayer - When overwhelmed, simplify your prayers to this three-word petition and trust God knows the details.
3. Reach Out to a Mother Figure - Thank someone (mother, grandmother, aunt, spiritual mother) who prayed persistently for you.
4. Commit to Persistent Prayer - Choose one situation that seems hopeless and commit to praying about it daily for 30 days, regardless of whether you see immediate results.
5. Get Involved in Community Hope - Research ways to support young people in your community (mentoring, tutoring, volunteering) as a practical expression of persistent faith.

---

## **Reflection Questions for Personal Meditation**

- What am I ready to give up on that God is calling me to persist in?
- Where am I suffering in silence instead of crying out to Jesus?
- Am I willing to "get ugly for the Lord" in desperate prayer?

- What seeds am I planting now that may not break through until later?
- 

### **Closing Activity (10 minutes)**

#### **Prayer Circle:**

- Have group members share ONE thing they need to persistently pray about
  - Commit to praying for each other's requests throughout the week
  - Close by praying together: "Lord, help us to hold out until our change comes"
- 

### **Additional Resources**

#### **Songs for Reflection:**

- "Lord Help Me to Hold Out" (Traditional Gospel)
- "Somebody Prayed for Me" (Dorothy Norwood)
- "Just a Little Talk with Jesus" (Cleavant Derricks)

#### **For Further Study:**

- Luke 18:1-8 (Parable of the Persistent Widow)
  - James 5:16 (The prayer of a righteous person is powerful)
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (Pray without ceasing)
-

## Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to group members who may have complicated relationships with their mothers
- Create space for those who are spiritual mothers or father figures to share
- Emphasize that persistence in prayer is not about changing God's mind but aligning our hearts with His will
- Celebrate testimonies of answered prayers, even if they took years

---

**Memory Verse:** *"Then Jesus said to her, 'Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.' And her daughter was healed at that moment." - Matthew 15:28*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How can we reconcile God's silence in response to our prayers with the truth that silence is not abandonment?
2. The sermon emphasizes that 'persistent faith eventually gets heaven's attention.' How does this challenge or affirm your current prayer life for loved ones who seem unchanged?
3. What generational prayers are being answered in your life right now that were planted by mothers, grandmothers, or spiritual mothers who may not be alive to see the harvest?
4. How does the call to 'save the boys' through education and community investment reflect the biblical mandate to be our brother's keeper in practical ways?

5. In what areas of your life are you settling for immediate comfort instead of persisting through the underground season like the Chinese bamboo tree?
6. The sermon connects civic engagement and voting with spiritual responsibility. How do you reconcile prayer with action in addressing systemic injustice?
7. What does it look like to hold out until your change comes when everything around you suggests that change will never arrive?
8. How does the metaphor of the Chinese bamboo tree challenge our understanding of the timeline of answered prayer and spiritual growth in our families?
9. In what ways does the Canaanite woman's willingness to accept 'crumbs' from the Master's table speak to our own posture of humility and desperation before God?
10. What does it mean to 'get ugly for the Lord' in prayer, and when have you experienced a moment where desperation led you to abandon composure before God?



