

# Jesus' Response to a Gentile Israelite

Matthew 15:21-28

*Halifax: 15 January 2006*

## **Introduction:**

I want to start off today by asking you a question:

- “Are you an Israelite?”

There is certainly more than one way to answer that question.

- The Bible uses the word “Israel” in different ways.
  1. Sometimes, it refers to those who are the physical descendants of Jacob whose name was changed to Israel.
    - To this day, the nation that descended from him is called “Israel.”
    - I don't think any of you are an Israelite in that way—according to the flesh.
  2. But at other times, the name Israel refers only to those who have genuine faith in the God of Israel like their father Jacob.
    - In Romans 9:6, Paul sets this **believing Israel** over against **Israel according to the flesh** when he says:
      - Romans 9:6: “They are not all Israel who are of Israel.”
      - He is pointing out that many who are the natural descendants of Jacob are not true spiritual descendants.
    - 3. And finally, it should be seen that for us in New Testament times,
      - even Gentiles can be properly called Israelites...
        - Paul appears to do this in Galatians 6:16 when He says:
          - Gal 6:16: And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God.
          - The context makes it quite clear that he is not speaking here about two groups: those who walk according to the rule and the Israel of God...
            - No, he has been labouring all along to show that there is one group, not two.
              - He is calling the believing Jews and believing gentiles the Israel of God so that we might translate:
                - “peace and mercy be upon them, even upon the Israel of God.”

- This is consistent with what he says in Galatians 3:28-29 about the difference between Jew and Gentile being abolished
  - so that believing Gentiles are now
    - “the seed of Abraham and heirs according to the promise.”
- And it is consistent with what Paul says about **Jews** in Romans:
  - Romans 2:28-29: “For he is not a Jew who *is one* outwardly, nor *is* circumcision that which *is* outward in the flesh; but *he is* a Jew who *is one* inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise *is* not from men but from God.”
  - Elsewhere, he speaks of believing Gentiles and Jews as:
    - “the Jerusalem that is above,” and even as
    - “the true circumcision.”
- So you see that if you are a believing Gentile,
  - You can say that you are an Israelite...
    - You can call yourself the seed of Abraham, an inhabitant of Jerusalem, a Jew, and the true circumcision.
  - That is why we, who are Gentiles, are able to sing the Psalms concerning ourselves when we speak of Israel, Jerusalem, and Zion.
    - Those Gentiles who truly believe in Jesus Christ are Israelites.

It makes perfect sense to call them Israelites when you stop and consider how Jacob came to be called an Israelite.

- We read about this in Genesis 32 today.
  - Jacob had often relied on his own cleverness and deceit to get what he wanted in life,
    - but in Genesis 32, we find that he has lost all confidence in himself.
  - He at last has come to realise that he is not capable of making it go well for himself...
    - He realises that the only source of blessing for him is in the Lord...
    - And so he wrestles with the Lord and absolutely refuses to let go until the Lord blesses him.
    - The Lord is pleased with this and changes his name to Israel, declaring:

- “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed.”
- The word Israel means “Prince with God,” or “one who has prevailed with God”...
  - This is not to say that Jacob defeated God,
    - but that he finally attained to God’s covenantal requirement of yielded submission.

So you see that an Israelite is anyone who has thus prevailed with God...

- anyone who has at last been brought to an end of himself and given himself up to the Lord to be blessed by Him as Jacob did.

The Gentile woman of Tyre and Sidon in Matthew 15:21-28,

- is a wonderful example to us of a true Israelite.
- Though she was a Syro-Phoenician by birth and not an Israelite according to the flesh, she prevails with God for His blessing just as Jacob had done 2000 years before.
  - Her example is given to us to teach us how to pray like a true Israelite—
    - with a faith that prevails with God.

If you would pray like a true Israelite,

## **I. The first thing you must do is: recognise your need.**

A. You must be gripped by the seriousness of the problem itself.

- You have to realise that your situation is critical.
1. I am sure that our prayers are often ineffectual because we just don’t care enough about the dreadful situation we are in!
    - a. Hell will be filled with people who thought sin was a very little problem...
      - 1) There will be those who were very concerned about their finances,
        - They lost sleep when their job was threatened or when a huge expense set them back...
        - But it made little difference to them that they were not reconciled to God.
      - 2) There will be those who were very concerned about romances and friendships and about being well liked by others...
        - They spent many days and nights concerning themselves with these things, and were always monitoring their relationships.

- They worried about what to say and what to wear and how to act,
    - but it made little difference to them as to whether they were pleasing God...
    - It made little difference to them if they had learned to love their neighbour...
    - Their concern was to be popular.
- 3) There will all so be many in Hell whose parents had many concerns about them when they were children, but not about their souls...
- They were worried about their health—every little bump and every little cold...
  - But did not have much concern over how their little ones responded to God in their trials...
  - They were worried about little junior’s performance on the ball field, another was worried about performance in the class room,
    - but there was not concern about his learning to observe the Ten Commandments...
      - No indeed, the ball game on Sunday was much more important than observing the Lord’s Day...
2. You simply cannot pray as this woman prayed if you are not gripped with your real need the way she was!
- a. She saw her problem clearly!
    - Her daughter was, as she says, “severely demon possessed!”
      - She is greatly distressed about it...
      - She has come searching for the Lord, and she is found crying out to Him with great vehemence and perseverance!
      - To her, this is no light matter!
  - b. But I say, if you come to the Lord and you are not really much concerned about your problem,
    - You will not persevere in prayer like this...
      - You might mention something about it, but you just don’t think about it enough to remember to keep praying.
      - You content yourself that you have asked, and it is not that much of a concern to you that the problem still continues.
        - It’s just not a big deal.
  - c. This is the lie that the world tells you today—

- it is especially a characteristic of post-modernism!
- 1) The theme of post-modernism is “no worries!”
    - What difference will it make...
    - Salvation and spiritual growth are not anything to get worked up about.
  - 2) I could rather suppose that this woman had a few friends that tried to comfort her in her anxiety about her daughter...
    - They said, “Well, there’s not a lot you can do. You just have to accept it.”
    - Perhaps there were those who assured her that it would work out in time...
      - But this woman would not be comforted!
      - She could not rest until something was done!
  - 3) That is what happens to God’s elect people when they become convicted about their sin!
    - They cannot rest until something is done!
    - They realise that they have offended a Holy God and that they are in danger of His eternal wrath unless they are pardoned.
    - They see their sin as a very detestable thing that ruins their whole life and makes them defiled and miserable.
      - Even after they are pardoned, sin is still detestable to them.
      - They cannot live at peace with it, but continue to cry out to the Lord.

TRANS> You will never be an Israelite unless you have become gripped by the seriousness of your problem...

- and along with that,
  - you must come to realise that there is nothing you can do about it.
- B. If you are to pray like the woman in our text, you must realise that there is nothing you can do about it apart from God’s intervention.
1. Here again, there are many who will be in Hell because they thought there was some other way to fix their problem...
    - a. Instead of repenting and turning to Christ, they went to the psychiatrist for therapy or medication...

- They were told that their anger or their anxiety were the result of a chemical imbalance and were given medication...
  - They were told that their inordinate sexual lusts were genetic and that they need not feel guilty about them.
- b. Another person turned to Mormonism or some moralistic version of Christianity—Roman Catholicism or Social activism...
- They learned to be a better person, they supposed, and learned to feel good about themselves.
  - They looked to the intercession of the saints or to works righteousness...
  - They supposed that they had found a way to fix the problem.
- c. Or perhaps they just supposed that everything would work itself out in time...
- They had a kind of hope-so faith that was not really grounded in anything other than wishful thinking...
  - I spoke to you last week about the danger of settling for superficial solutions!
    - It is a way that has deceived millions and you must not let it deceive you.
    - There is only one real answer for sinners, and that is Jesus Christ,
      - not Jesus as He is offered by false religions,
      - but as He is offered to us in the gospel...
        - as the one who alone can secure our pardon by His death on the cross...
        - and the one who alone can give us the Holy Spirit to enable us to live a new life.
2. A true Israelite like Jacob and like the woman in our text were finished with all vain and superficial aids.
- a. Jacob had relied on his own wit to get along, but as he met Esau, he realised at last that there was no way out by means of his own craftiness...
- He was absolutely in God's hands!
  - Perhaps the Syro-Phoenician woman had been to her idols and to her physicians and exorcists,
    - but when she at last came to Jesus, she knew that she was powerless to deliver her daughter.
- b. Both Jacob and this woman prayed as they did because they knew there was no help to be found elsewhere!

- “Lord, if you do not help me, I will not be helped!”
- Oh that all of you could be done with all the physicians that cannot heal your soul!
- Oh that you could be done with all self-reliance and cast yourself on Jesus alone!

TRANS> But this is still not all that makes your condition desperate!

- It not just that the problem itself is so severe....
    - and that there is no place to go for the help you need (except the Lord)...
- C. Your condition is also desperate because, in coming to God for help, you realise that you have no claim upon Him.
- You have a very severe problem, and He is the only one who can help you...
    - But why should he help you?
1. What goodness is there in you for Him to respond to?
    - a. He says that we are altogether ruined by sin so that every part is defiled.
      - He says that our hearts are deceitful and desperately wicked.
      - Everything we are is contrary to everything that He is.
    - 1) Do you help someone whose whole way is contrary to what is just and right?
      - Do you help someone whose very existence is contrary to everything you stand for?
      - Do you help a rapist or a murder or a thief?
    - 2) Why should a holy God help a sinner?
      - You have nothing whatsoever to claim.
  - b. But He is willing to help you if you repent!
    - 1) In Isaiah 55:7, He says:
      - Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.
      - He is willing to help you if you are willing to be helped—to leave your own way and seek God’s way.
    - 2) And let me add that even this repentance itself is God’s gift!
      - If you have repented, it is because God has changed your heart...

- It is clearly evident that God had already begun to help this woman or she would never have come to Jesus in the first place!
  - He had changed Jacob's heart, or Jacob would never have come to Him for the help he needed.
2. And so it is that when you come to God for help, you cannot hold up your merit to Him.
- a. You must come as Jacob and this woman came...
- Jacob said that he was not worthy of even the least of God's mercies...
    - And this woman asks for nothing but mercy...
      - Not once do you see her claiming that she is worthy of God's help.
      - There is not trace of that.
        - She does not ask God to bless her because she is good or because she has done some special work for God...
          - she only asks for mercy and nothing more.
- b. Here is another place where so many stumble in their prayers...
- 1) They come to God as if they are entitled to His mercies!
- But mercy by very definition is something to which you are clearly not entitled!
  - There are so many in our society who have an entitlement mentality!
    - They always feel that others should be doing something for them, and they are even that way toward God!
    - All their life they have been lavished with His mercy and goodness and so they feel that they are entitled to it!
- 2) You can tell that this is so because they complain that they have been mistreated...
- They grumble against God the way Israel did in the wilderness!
    - They complain that God has not done enough for them and has mistreated them all along the way!
    - This is so wrong; so inappropriate!
  - You need to look at all your afflictions and all the abuse you have ever received and say,
    - I deserve all this and much more also!



- 3) Don't come to the Lord with an attitude that you are worthy of His favour...
  - You are worthy of nothing but his judgement...
  - It is with that attitude alone that you will be able to pray as Israel!
    - It is only then that you become truly desperate about your problem!
    - Clearly that is the attitude of Jacob and of this woman.

TRANS> So let me ask you...

- Do you recognise your great need?
  - Do you see the seriousness of your problem?
  - Do you see that there is nothing you can do about it apart from the Lord?
  - And do you see that you have no claim upon the Lord?
- This is what it is to recognise your great need.
  - That is the first thing you must do to pray like a true Israelite...
  - The second thing is closely connected to this...

## II. Secondly, to pray like a true Israelite, you must recognise who Jesus is.

A. First, you must see that He is **Lord!**

1. This Canaanite woman, with whatever little knowledge she may have had of Him, knew that He is Lord.
  - Her request is, "Have mercy on me **O Lord.**"
  - She is here calling upon the name of the Lord...
    - Jacob also comes to Him as Lord.
2. When you come to Him as Lord, it means that you recognise that He alone has supreme authority...
  - a. It means that He has authority over you and over all that threatens you.
    - 1) Was the woman's daughter possessed of a devil?
      - She knew that **the Lord** was Lord of all...
        - He had all authority over devils—
        - He could cast out the demon.
    - 2) Was Jacob terrified by the powerful Esau who had once sought to kill him?

- He knew that the Lord had all authority.
  - He could deliver him from Esau's hand.
- b. Though we would never admit it, too often our prayers come short because we really don't think God is able to deliver us!
- 1) There are many people who have prayed in some measure and have concluded that there is no help for them in God...
    - They have despaired and given up!
      - I tried prayer, but it didn't work!
      - They suppose that He has no authority or power to deliver them.
  - 2) But I ask you, what do the scriptures teach about Jesus' resurrection?
    - Do they not tell us that God declared Him to be Lord by raising Him from the dead?
      - Did He not show by this that He had even conquered death for us?
      - Did He not come to His disciples after He was risen and say,
        - "All authority in heaven and earth is given to me?"
        - Are we not told that God has given Jesus the name that is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that He is what???
        - LORD!
        - He is the LORD Jehovah! The highest name above all names.
    - And do the scriptures no tell us that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in all of us who believe?
      - Let us come to Him therefore with confidence!
      - If you are serious about your problem, bring it to the Lord.
  - 3) I will tell you of a place that I think we are very weak in our faith...
    - In our prayer for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven...
      - We don't even think He can do that in our homes!
        - We don't pray that with faith because we don't believe He can do it.
      - Yet, He has told us that the knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

- It is time for us to start believing Him and praying earnestly for this!

TRANS> To pray like a true Israelite, you must first believe that Jesus is Lord...

B. Secondly, you must believe that He is **the Son of David**.

1. This Syro-Phoenician woman called Him **the Son of David** when many of Jesus' own countrymen would not do so...
  - She recognised that He was the Messiah,
    - the Christ whom God had promised to the Jews.
  - Hers was not a hope in a Christ of her own imagination...
    - It was hope in the Christ that was promised in the Scriptures—the Scriptures that had been entrusted to the Jews.
2. Real faith, you see, is always grounded in the promise of God.
  - a. It is not just believing that things will turn out okay or that Jesus will help me...
    - It is believing that He will help me in accordance with what God has promised concerning Him.
    - Sure, you can come to Jesus for some kind of feel-good sensation or some kind of pick-me-up,
      - but that will do you no good in the long run.
        - It may comfort you in the short run, but it will not help you in the long run.
        - You must come to Him as He is promised and revealed in the Bible.
    - God has revealed Jesus to us in the scriptures,
      - You do Him a great injustice and bring harm to your own understanding if you try to decide what Christ means to you without consulting what God has promised Him to be for you.
      - He is the One God sent to save His people from their sins.
  - b. Jacob, of course, could not call Jesus the Son of David because he had not yet been revealed by that name...
    - But Jacob also acted on the promise that God had given to him that he would be the father of the promised seed that would save the world...

- And so when Jacob's life was threatened and the life of his sons by the approach of Esau,
    - Jacob believed what God had promised.
    - That is what faith always does.
- c. Someone might say,
- But what of this woman in our text?
    - On what promise did she rely?
  - It was the promise that all the nations of the earth would be blessed by David's Son.
    - That is why she gladly looked to Him as the Son of David.
      - She had hope in what God had promised concerning the Messiah.
3. You will surely trip up, as so many do, if you start defining your own Jesus and what He has come to do.
- a. There may be many things you want Him to do, and many more that you want Him to be...
  - b. But you must come to Him as He is revealed in His covenant revealed in scripture...
    - He is here to bring to His people forgiveness of sin and deliverance from sin.
    - You must come to Him to be reconciled to God and to obtain a new life of joyful service to Him.
- C. Now you see in this woman what the true Israelite does because she knows who Jesus is!
- 1. She worships Him...
    - She bows down to Him and worships Him.
    - Last week I showed you that true worship has two components:
      - Praise to Him of His greatness and kindness...
      - Dependency upon Him for ourselves.
  - 2. This is exactly what we see in the case of this woman and what is seen in the prayer of every true Israelite!
    - a. There is the outward form of praise, calling Him Lord and Christ,
      - And then there is the calling upon Him in humble dependence...
      - But this outward form is not just an empty ritual that you mouth off without really thinking about what you are saying...

- It is, as with this woman, a true expression of your soul before God!
- b. How different was this woman's worship and that of the Jews at this time!
- They offered their sacrifices again and again,
  - but their hearts were far away.
  - She comes with the sincerity of Jacob facing Esau.
- c. Beware, you covenant people who have the ordinances of God!
- It is quite easy for it all to become so familiar!
  - for you to know the songs without knowing the Saviour!
  - for you to take the bread and drink the cup without looking to the promised Saviour to feed upon Him...
  - The solution is not to reject the ordinances, but to change your heart!
  - To come to God with a true urgency and sincerity as a true Israelite.

TRANS> Do you truly see your need of Salvation?

- Do you really recognise who Jesus is?
- That is what the true Israelite does!
- And lastly, I want you to see that

### **III. If you are a true Israelite, you will not cease to pray until you have actually obtained His blessing.**

A. Though He is silent, you will not be silent!

1. Suppose you are already a Christian...

a. You are already an Israelite...

- You have come to Jesus as a desperate sinner and He has redeemed you.
- You rejoice in the forgiveness of sin and you are thankful that He has turned your heart to His way...

b. But just lately you have been mindful of an impatience with your children and a lack of love toward your spouse...

- You have found yourself grumbling a lot and not really caring for the needs of others...at least not so as to take any action for them...
- And so you have prayed and asked the Lord to have mercy on you...
  - but there have been very few changes.
  - The Lord has been silent!

- c. Of course this could be applied many other issues—
  - You are a child and you know you are not honouring your parents...
  - You go to church, but you find that your worship has been cold and in vain lately...
  - You are struggling with lusts that seems to be overtaking you...
  - You are concerned about your children and have been praying for them, but God seems to remain silent.

TRANS> What are you to do?

- 2. You are to do what this poor woman did in our passage!
  - a. By no means are you to give up and assume that the Lord will answer when He wants!
    - No no! That is not the prayer that prevails!
      - That is not the prayer of an Israelite!
      - That is not the prayer you pray when you feel that Esau is coming to crush you!
  - b. If the Lord is silent, you are to become all the more desperate about your need!
    - You are not to reduce, but to increase your prayers!
      - He is testing your faith to see if it is real!
        - He is testing you to see if you really care about your issue!
          - Perhaps you do not yet care enough
        - He is testing you to see if you really believe the answer is with Him!
          - Perhaps if he answered you now, you would suppose that you had done it in your own strength or by your own wisdom.
    - c. If you believe, you will not shut up!
      - You will bother other people, urging them to pray for you as she bothered the disciples...
        - You will simply not allow the Lord to be silent, but will bombard heaven with your prayers!

TRANS> But do you know what usually happens when you do that?

- In His providence and through His word...

- B. He begins to show you all the more that you are unworthy of His help?
1. Do you see Him answering the prayers of others but not yours?
    - a. Your temptation will be say,
      - “But Lord, why do you answer their prayers and not mine?”
      - “Have I not been more faithful than they are?”
    - b. Think how hard it must have been for the Syro-Phoenician woman—
      - 1) Jesus first tells His disciples concerning her:
        - “But I was not sent but for the lost sheep of the house of Israel!”
        - You might expect her to say,
          - “Well, if that’s how you will be, forget it! I heard that you were merciful, but now I see that you are no different than your people. I suppose we are just not good enough for you.”
      - 2) But that is exactly the opposite of she did.
        - And that is the opposite of what you ought to do!
        - Instead of raising up her head and pride, we are told that she went to Him and worshipped Him!
        - That is, she bowed down to Him and she said simply...
          - “Lord, help me!”
    - c. But still Jesus resists her...
      - 1) Now He says, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs...”
        - Now she will surely be insulted!
        - The Jews frequently spoke with disdain of the Gentile dogs!
          - “So you think I am not good enough,” she might have said...
      - 2) But not this woman!
        - She did not deny that she was undeserving of God’s favour!
          - She believed that she was but a dog and the Jews were the children to whom the bread belonged.
          - She did not try to obtain the blessing by arguing that she was just as good as the Jews...
            - She did not point out to the Lord how wretched his people had been to Him...

- How they had not honoured Him or received Him...
    - She felt that she had no argument here because she did not believe she was worthy.
    - She found no hope in what she was...
  - Instead, she found hope in the abundant mercy of the Lord Jesus!
    - Surely, he must feed the children the bread of life first...
      - but she is only looking for a little crumb that falls from the table!
      - That will be enough for her!
        - She is not looking to sit on his right hand in the kingdom...
        - She is content to crawl about on the floor and eat the crumbs that fall from the children's table!
- 3) The Lord has tested her and she has proven to be an Israelite!
- So what do you do when God does not answer your prayers?
    - If you are a true Israelite, you do not become proud and begin to tell the Lord how wonderful you are and how worthy of his help.
    - You do not argue that you are worthy...
  - But instead you humble yourself before Him.
    - You ask Him not because of your goodness, but because of His mercy.
    - You don't wonder why he helps others instead of you...
      - but you are inspired to see what he has given to them...
      - and you ask him to give you the overflow.
2. And so you see how the true Israelite prevails and is humbled all the more.
- a. He is shown what he is...
    - The Lord touches his thigh and puts it out of joint...
  - b. But Israel does not let go. He says,
    - "Yes, I am a dog indeed, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the Master's table..."
    - "Give me the crumbs and it will be enough for me!"
      - "Without your blessing, I will surely perish, but if you give me but I crumb, I am sure I will live forever."
      - "I will not let you go expect you bless me."



- c. Rather than being discouraged and turning away, the true Israelite will continue until he prevails...
  - He will do whatever it takes to obtain the blessing.
  - He will not be offended because he will know that he is not worthy...
    - but neither will he cease to plead.

C. And what does our gracious Lord do?

1. He changes your name to Israel because that is what you are!
  - You are a prince with God who has prevailed.
  - You have demonstrated clearly that you have been given the gift of true faith, that you are the elect of God...
    - So Jesus declares to this woman...
      - “Great is your faith.”
      - “You are a true Israelite...”
      - “Let it be to you as you desire.”
      - And He will surely give you His blessing!
        - Jacob was not swallowed up by Esau
        - And the Canaanite woman’s daughter was delivered from the demon that very hour.
        - You are an Israelite indeed!
2. But what about you who belong to the church, you are the sons and daughters of the covenant?
  - a. Are you a true Israelite, or are you just an Israelite in name?
    - Do you have a table loaded with the feast of Jesus Christ, but with no appetite for Him?
    - Is His mercy stretched out to you, but you pay it no attention?
    - Is sin clinging to you,
      - but you have no mind to come to the Lord about it?
      - Is there no heart in you to drop to your knees and pray for His mercy?
      - Are you an Israelite who is not an Israelite?
  - b. What a shameful thing it is to see people who are outside the covenant coming with such enthusiasm and hunger to receive the Lord’s blessing...
    - while those among the covenant people have no appetite.

- How they put us to shame who have the feast always before us and eat not!
  - While they gladly lick up the crumbs that fall from the table!
- How they put to shame those in the covenant who proudly feel that they are entitled to God's blessing...
  - There is a sense in which you are, but it is all of His mercy and from any merit in you!
  - Israel is not made up of those who are proud and feel themselves entitled to God's favour...
    - Oh no!
    - The true Israelite is the One who yearns for mercy.
      - This is the faith that prevails...
      - This is the faith that will not give up or be put off...
      - This is the faith that obtains the blessing of God.
      - Do you have this faith?

## **Conclusion**

Let me tell you that our Lord Jesus Himself is the true Israel in whom all Israel (the whole church) is blessed!

- He is the One who prevailed with God for us all!
- He is the One who offered His own body to atone for our sins, receiving the rejection and curse of the Father until the Father said, "It is enough."
  - His bones were put out of joint for our sake, as He wrestled for us and obtained the prize.
  - And now I urge each of you to come to this Son of David who has conquered death and the curse for us,
    - and to prevail with Him!
    - Come to Him and do not leave Him alone until He blesses you!
      - He may very well test you as He so often does,
      - He may test you to see if you really want the blessing and to help you to cherish it all the more...
      - He may test you to see if you think you can obtain the blessing in some other way in order that you might realise all that more that it is all of His grace...
        - But if you are a true Israelite, you will not let Him go until He blesses you.
          - If He is silent at first, you will not be silent...
          - If He shows you that you are unworthy, you will fully accept it...
            - You will accept it because you did not come to Him for wages, but for mercy.
            - You will accept it because you are a true Israelite.