

GOSPEL PEARLS

The real purpose of life

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Jesus left Gennesaret and set out for the territory of Tyre. There he went into a house and did not want anyone to know he was there, but he could not pass unrecognised. A woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him straightaway and came and fell at his feet. Now the woman was a pagan, by birth a Syrophenician, and she begged him to cast the devil out of her daughter. And he said to her, 'The children should be fed first, because it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' But she spoke up: 'Ah yes, sir,' she replied 'but the house-dogs under the table can eat the children's scraps.' And he said

to her, 'For saying this, you may go home happy: the devil has gone out of your daughter.' So she went off to her home and found the child lying on the bed and the devil gone. (Mark 7, 24-30)

Like the parables, Jesus' miracles always have a twofold objective: to arouse faith in the person benefited and to be a teaching for all. This is why Jesus often asks for a testimony of faith before granting a miracle. And if Jesus considers that the miracle will be useless for the salvation of the person who asks for it, it is not granted. Let's stop complaining about Jesus not giving us that grace that we so desire and let's focus more on how to obtain eternal salvation, the true purpose of our life on this earth.