

authority it is in danger of falling prey to the interest of academic institution in justifying the status-quo in the dominant political power structures. It tends to serve the dominant classes in society and church rather than to preserve its allegiance to God's people, especially the poor and the exploited women of all tribes and sections of people who belong to patriarchal society. We should seek theological integrity, biblical and theological scholarships should serve the political interest of the academy and make equal normative subjects of scholarships and not serve theologically to legitimise societal structures of equality between men and women.

In the case of Syrophoenician woman<sup>53</sup> during Jesus' ministry she encountered cultic purity and cross-cultural barriers and pleaded Jesus to heal her daughter and ended with a success of healing. The Gospel of Mark has explicated that the Gentiles have become a community of faith and social separatist attitude has become obsolete. After a long discourse with the Pharisees and Scribes and his disciples over purity law, Jesus left the Jewish territory and went to the Gentiles' territory. However, the Syrophoenician woman was determined. She was caught between life and death but she has aggressively persuaded to make herself and her daughter alive. So she has the same word that Jesus used and said to Jesus that 'even the dogs ate the crumbs under the master's table'. For her, dog does not mean to be servile. Dogs are domestic animals. The woman's response indicated cultural difference in attitudes towards dogs. She is consciously or unconsciously defending the right of her people.

We look forward to seeing that women status should be raised in social, educational, religious and economic spheres of life. Equality should be emphasised in importance and activities. Sex barrier should be overcome in terms of ministry in the church for promotion, edification and outreach.

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<sup>53</sup> Mark 7:24-30