

# **Performative Aspects of Preaching**

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Workshop Text: Matthew 15:21-28

## **Opening and Introductions**

### **Act I: The Body as Instrument of God**

Voice and body exercises

Tension vs. openness, energy vs. nerves

Posture and movement

Reading from a manuscript—heads up, eyes up!

### **Act II: The Narrative of Preaching**

The arc of storytelling—you must find the story.

Creating dramatic tension to hold interest—tension and release

Naming the sermon—think of movie titles

### **Act III: Principles of Acting**

The definition of acting:

Acting is \_\_\_\_\_

Identifying and understanding characters—who are the players in the text?

Selectivity of dramatic moments

Choose key moments—avoid trying to do it all

Weaving the tapestry of narrative, exegesis, and application

The magic “as if”—the secret to good acting

How to embody a character using the “as if”

How to build a dramatic moment using the “as if”

## **Putting It All Together**

### **Text for Workshop: Matthew 15:21-28**

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all.

And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."

He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."

He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters table."

Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.