

THE WALL

Part 3: Getting Past The Wall of Discouragement

THE WALL OF DISCOURAGEMENT

- ❖ **Discouragement - to be disheartened, to lose courage and passion**
- ❖ **Sources of discouragement**
 - ◆ Problems
 - ◆ People
 - ◆ Progress (lack of)
 - ◆ Perceptions
- ❖ **God is not the source of discouragement**
 - ◆ He lifts mankind - does not tear you down to build you up
 - ◆ We humble ourselves - He exalts (*James 4:10 NKJV*)

A LADY WHO FACED AND OVERCAME SOME DISCOURAGING SITUATIONS

(Matthew 15:21-28 NKJV)

- ❖ **A distressed daughter**
 - ◆ The situation was severe
- ❖ **Rejection from the only people that could help her**
 - ◆ The disciples had turned her away
 - ◆ Jesus did not appear helpful
 - ◆ Her religion appeared to be an insurmountable wall
- ❖ **Mission minded momma**
 - ◆ Getting help for her daughter was the primary motivator
 - ◆ She did not get caught up in the people problems
 - ◆ Deep down she must have believed that Jesus . . .

GETTING PAST THE WALL OF DISCOURAGEMENT

- ❖ **A reason to resist discouragement**
 - ◆ The bigger the purpose the greater the persistence (*Hebrews 12:2 NLT*)
- ❖ **Recognize that discouragement distorts reality**
 - ◆ The problems appear larger than they actually are
 - ◆ People often appear uncaring or all aligned against you (*Ephesians 4:31-32 NLT*)
 - ◆ God appears distant and prayer an exercise in futility
- ❖ **Have faith in the mercy of God**
 - ◆ That He has not and will not abandon you
 - ◆ That His mercy is bigger than your weakness
 - ◆ That there is a path to help and it's available to you (*Hebrews 4:16 NLT*)