

Tuesday, May 31

²⁵But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

1. What is it that this woman has heard of Jesus?
 - a. What do you think she heard that made her seek him out?
2. Why do you think Mark points out the fact that this woman is a Gentile who had been born in the region of the coastal Phoenician cities?
3. What does this Gentile woman's begging reveal about her beliefs concerning Jesus? (hint: see Matthew 15:22)
 - a. Why does she believe he *can help her*?
 - b. Why does she believe he *will help her*?

Song: "The Gentle Healer" by Selah

Prayer: "Jesus, you are the Savior of the world. No one can do what you can. There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Help us to see you for who you really are, and empower us by your Spirit to live our lives according to that revelation. May we live our lives by faith in you; the Son of God who loved us and gave himself for us. We love you, Lord. Amen."

Wednesday, June 1

²⁷And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

1. What has happened to our kind, compassionate Jesus? Why would Jesus answer her in this way?
 - a. Who are "the children" who must be fed first?
 - b. What is meant by "the children's bread"?
 - c. Who are "the dogs"?
2. How do the disciples view this woman? (see Matthew 15:23)
 - a. Why does Jesus call the woman a "dog" in the presence of his disciples?
 - b. What does this tell us about the disciples and their understanding of who Jesus is?
 - c. What does this tell us about Jesus' true intentions here?

Song: "The Family of God"

Prayer: "Lord, forgive me of the times I have treated those who have come to you as outsiders, forgetting that I was once an outsider, too. There are no outsiders to the gospel call. You call all who are weary and are heavy laden and offer to them your rest. Forgive me for the times I have pushed away or sent away those whom I should have welcomed and helped in your name. I'm not worthy to be in your family, yet you have made a place for me at your table. Give me the grace to see others as you do, and welcome them to the table as you have welcomed me. Amen."

Thursday, June 2

²⁷And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

1. Why does this Gentile woman seem to not take offense to Jesus' statement about throwing the children's bread to the dogs—to her?
 - a. How aware is she of the ethnic divide between Jews and Gentiles?
 - b. Why does that divide not deter her from seeking mercy from Jesus?
2. In Jesus' response to the woman, he includes a key indicator about his mission in the region of Tyre and Sidon—and ultimately, for all Gentiles. What is that indicator?
3. The woman takes heart and boldly engages with Jesus' dinner table metaphor, saying that "even the dogs under the table eat the children's bread crumbs" (Mark 7:28).
 - a. What does this tell us about the woman's understanding of "the children's bread"?
 - b. What does this tell us about the woman's understanding of "Gentile dogs" and the mission of Christ?

Song: "His Mercy is More" by Matt Boswell & Matt Papa

Prayer: "God, your grace truly is amazing. I am so undeserving of the grace you richly pour out on me. My sins are many, but your mercy is more. My sins are great, but your grace is greater. Thank you for grafting a Gentile like me into the true vine that is Jesus Christ. I have been saved by your grace through the gift of saving faith—not by works that I have done, but because of your mercy. Thank you that I have been saved and forgiven, even if by the crumbs that fall from the table. Amen."

Family Worship 2022

May 30 - June 4

Mark 7:24-30
A Place at the Table

Friday, June 3

²⁹And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

1. What reason does Jesus give the woman for healing her daughter?
 - a. What does the woman's statement reveal about her coming to Christ for help?
 - b. What is it about the woman's statement that causes Christ to answer her prayer and heal her daughter?
2. What role does faith play in our relationship with God?
3. What implications does this narrative have on the mission of God from this point forward?
 - a. If the gospel is now extended to Jew and Gentile alike, what does that mean for us?
 - b. How does this affect the way we share the gospel with other people?

Song: "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"

Prayer: "Lord God, I am so grateful your glorious plan of redemption included me. And not just me, but all who will come to you in faith. Empower me through your Word and Spirit to be a light to the nations. Only you can open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place at your table—among those who are sanctified by faith in Jesus Christ. Use me to go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that your house may be filled. Amen."

Saturday, June 4

Read Mark 7:24-30 again and review the questions from each day. Which did you find most important for you this week? Pray and ask God to prepare your mind and heart for the preaching of his Word tomorrow.

Kids and Parents: See if you can unscramble the daily **KTFK - Key Thought for Kids** (Answers on back page)

Introduction

Mark 7:24-30 is a perplexing passage of Scripture. In it, we see a side of Jesus that seems to contradict his kind, compassionate heart. But if we look closely, we'll see what's really happening in this text: Jesus extends God's amazing grace even to outsiders.

Monday, May 30

²⁴And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden.

1. The text begins with Jesus entering the region of Tyre and Sidon, which is Gentile territory. Why is this significant? (see also John 4:4)
2. Was Jesus alone or were his disciples with him? (cf. Matthew 15:23)
3. Why do you think Jesus entered a house and didn't want anyone to know he was there?
 - a. What does this tell us about his reasons for withdrawing to this region? Why is he there?
4. Though Jesus seeks solitude with his disciples, he is found out.
 - a. Does this encounter surprise Jesus or happen against his wishes?
 - b. What does this tell us about God's redemptive purposes?

Song: "Orphans of God" by Avalon

Prayer: "God, I was once an enemy of heaven, separated from Christ—a stranger to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in this world. But in your loving kindness, you came to where I was. It was not by accident or happenstance, but it was because of your divine plan to save sinners that you found me and enfolded me into your family. Never let me forget what you have done for me in Christ so I could be welcomed into your family. Amen."