

If anything but Jesus is the real reason for your self-worth, if there is anything more important to your identity than Jesus Christ, whether it's your moral goodness or your open-mindedness, or your race and your culture, you're going to have to look down your nose at the people who aren't as open-minded as you, who do not have the same race as you, who are not as moral as you.

Don't be too proud to accept what the gospel says about your unworthiness. Don't be too despondent to accept what the gospel says about how loved you are. Tim Keller

¹Osborne, G. R. (2014). Mark (M. L. Strauss & J. H. Walton, Eds.; p. 122). Baker Books.

²Sproul, R. C. (2011). Mark (First Edition, p. 171). Reformation Trust.

³Sproul, R. C. (2011). Mark (First Edition, p. 172). Reformation Trust.

⁴Keller, T. J. (2013). The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive. Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

DiscipleMakers: Tim and Holly Howden

- Pray for wisdom as they prepare for the Fall Semester.
- Pray for their baby who should be arriving soon.



CRU: Steve and Kristin Scholl

- Look for their prayer letter on our website. www.gcc-pa.org
- Pray as they lead "Art of Parenting" at their church this fall.

Crossing Cultures International: David and Mindy Nelson Thailand

Please pray for the opening of new classes in Thailand and all students will be faithful in their studies and complete the training.

Pray for a revival for the leaders who attended last month's seminar, *The Cross Before the Crown*. This seminar challenges leaders to dutifully follow Jesus Christ and serve Him to achieve the goal that in the future, we will be glorified and crowned with the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ for our service in the world.



September 11, 2022

10:30 A.M.

The Sympathetic Christ



Mark 7:37

And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Missions Report – Video

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call To Worship

Hymn of Praise

“O For a Thousand(Hallelujah)” Wesley/Hudson/Miller

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: *The Heidelberg Catechism, Q. #27 & 28

Hymn of Affirmation

“I Got Saved”. Voss/Yates/Riddle

Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal-----

Scripture Warning: 1 Timothy 6:6-9, 11

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Romans 8:38-39

Song of Renewal: “Lord, I Need You”

. Reeves/Stanfill/Maher/Nockels/Carson

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: Mark 7:24–37

Prayer

The Sermon

“The Sympathetic Christ”

Song of Communion

“Great is Thy Faithfulness” Chisholm/Runyan

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Approach

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:22-25 (Optional)

Holy Communion

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn: “It Is Well”. Spafford/Bliss

Benediction

**The Heidelberg Catechism originated in Germany in 1562 under the authority of Elector Frederick III, who ruled the most important German province, the Palatinate, from his castle in Heidelberg. He commissioned the preparation of a new catechism for guiding ministers and teachers in instructing people in the Christian faith.*

“Be opened.” ³⁵And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

First of all, he takes this man aside privately.

Secondly, he points to his ears, then he spits on his own fingers, and he touches the man's tongue.

Then he looks to heaven, he sighs to the bottom, deeply sighing, and he says, “Be opened!”

Isaiah 35:5 (ESV)

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

Why is he doing this?

He's doing it for a scared man who is used to being a spectacle. That's why he takes him aside privately, so his miracle is not one more show.

Conclusions

Jesus Christ can cleanse anybody at all

It doesn't matter what you've done.

Jesus cleanses everybody differently

Jesus' sympathy is real sympathy because he always gives you what you need, always. He will sometimes be rough with you. Sometimes he'll be soft with you, but it's only because he's really sympathetic.

Jesus is a wonderful example for reaching out across cultural and racial barriers.

Until you see that Jesus Christ had to become the lowest scum of the earth so that you could become a son or daughter, until your self-righteousness is ruined and melted away and affirmed away and loved away by that, you will never really **overcome the true self-righteousness that creates exclusiveness.**

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“The children eat first,” referring to the children of Israel. He was saying: “My ministry has a priority. My ministry is to take care of the children of Israel, not to give the food that is meant for the children to the little dogs.” That was simply another way of saying that His ministry was to the people of Israel and that the outreach to the Gentiles would come later.

Jesus says, “You’re a dog.”

In the Greek, the word for *dog* is rendered in the diminutive sense. This is an important detail. Although most of the dogs in Jesus’ day were half-wild scavengers, small, domesticated dogs were kept as house pets, and these dogs tended to gather under the family table at mealtimes. They typically were fed the table scraps, but only after the family had eaten.³

An Accepting Response

Yes, Lord,” she says, “you’re right, but there’s enough bread for us dogs as well.” Jesus looks at her and praises her. He says, “For this answer your daughter is healed.”

I am exactly what you say, so unworthy. There’s no bread for me.” She turns around, and she says,

“But I want you to know I know there is enough mercy on that table for me. Of course, I’m not fit to sit at the table. I don’t even ask for that, but there is enough mercy for me. I know you have a heart that’s big enough. I want it.”⁴

With these two things together, you have Christianity.

That’s Christianity. Jesus says you’re not fit for the table. It’s not until she says, “I’m a dog under the table,” that she is fit to be a child at the table. It is not till she admits she’s a dog under the table that she is admitted as a child to the table, because that’s what he does. This is the gospel. If you say, “I see,” Jesus says you’re blind. If you say, “I’m blind, Lord,” he says, “Finally, you see.” If you say, “I’m all right,” he says you’re condemned. If you say, “I’m condemned,” he says, “All right, I took your condemnation for you.” Tim Keller

HEALING A DEAF AND MUTE MAN

Mark 7:31–37 (ESV)

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is,

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 17 8:00 A.M. Men’s Breakfast

at the home of Pastor Rick

Sunday, September 18 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer

Worship at 1300 High St. Pottstown

Sunday, September 25 10:30 A.M.

David Nelson and associates will be with us for the worship service followed by a luncheon.

Wednesday, September 28 7:00 A.M. See You at the Pole

Pray with classmates at your school flagpole.

Saturday, October 1 6:00 P.M. Prayer dinner

at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

Saturday, November 12 Ladies Event

Verna Bowman speaking: Time and Place TBD

Currently the Youth Ministry is going through a change in leadership. During this time, the Elders are working through the transition to support the change in leadership. We do not have a time when Youth Group meetings will resume. As the process continues, we will keep you informed. Please pray for the Elders and the youth through this change. We do believe it is a part of the revitalization and growth of GCC. The Elders are available to answer any questions you may have.



Pro-Life Prayer

FAMILY MEMBERS UNSURE OF WHAT TO DO

When a family discovers their loved one is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, they may experience anger, fear, shock, disappointment, and embarrassment. Sometimes damaging words are said out of these emotions and relationships are severed. Pray for families to respond in love and care when they hear this news.

Ask God to give wisdom and discernment to each family member. Pray that mothers and fathers in crisis would choose life because of the love and care they receive from their families. Pray that the gospel would be proclaimed and family members would look to Jesus for hope and strength in these situations.

Prayer/Praise. September 11, 2022

- Pray for Pastor Rick who is having neck surgery on September 14. Pray for a successful surgery and healing.
- Pray for Macie and Cassie Frame, who are getting settled in their new home in California. Pray they will always remember they are children of God and that He will protect them.
- Pray for Terri Yerk, friend of Donna Jenkins, who was admitted to Park House with a stroke. Pray for healing for him and God's comfort for his wife.
- Pray for Jill Aument, who needs to have an eye procedure done one time per month for three months, for bleeding and fluid behind her eye. Pray for continued healing for Jill following this procedure.
- Praise that Ernest, co-worker of Steve Simons, is taking parenting classes and has visitation rights for his child.
- Praise that Steve's brother John's mother-in-law, who had a nasty fall, is home from the hospital and doing well.
- Pray for Mrs. McCabe, whose husband passed away. Pray for God's strength for the family during this difficult time.
- Pray for Lorraine Blanski's sister-in-law, Beth, who will be starting a 5-day radiation treatment program for one month beginning on September 19th. Pray for God's continued healing for Beth.
- Pray for Austin, the stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece, who has been going through multiple surgeries due to burns from his accident and experiencing mental health issues at the present time. Pray for continued healing and mental health and God's strength for Austin.
- Pray for John Kurtyka, cousin of Lorraine Blanski, whose daughter, Leah, passed away on September 1st, due to a drug overdose. Pray for God's strength, peace, and comfort for John's family and John, who lost both of his children.
- Pray for Terry Cecchetelli's grandnephew, Liam, who is 1-year old and has a rare disease called PDHA-1. He will need a feeding tube. Pray for God's wisdom for Liam's doctors and strength and comfort for the families.
- Pray for Igor Parfeniouiuk, a North Coventry police officer with Matt Deichert. Pray for Igor's sister and her family, as they are still living in Ukraine.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Praise that Evan can be off the breathing machine for the hours he is awake. Pray for God's healing for Evan and for his family and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker for healing from cancer.

Message

The Sympathetic Christ

Mark 7:24–37

Introduction

Mark now turns to examples of faith, as the Syrophenician woman is one of the “little people” in Mark, characters who appear only once but carry the theme of what a true disciple should be. As such, she gives a lesson to the disciples of the humility and Christ-centeredness that must characterize a true follower of Jesus. The healing of the deaf mute then continues this emphasis.¹ Jesus went outside the borders of Israel to seek a place where He could rest from the pressing multitudes and from the debates that He had been going through. It is not clear why Jesus chose this particular region as a place of retreat; perhaps it simply seemed to be the place where He would have the lowest profile.

Crumbs

A Desperate Plea

Mark 7:24–26 (ESV)

And 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. 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.

Mark says the woman came to Jesus and “fell at His feet.” This posture indicates two things. First, she was paying homage to Jesus, showing profound respect to Him even though she knew Him only by reputation. But not only was this a sign of homage, it was a sign of abject pleading. She fell to the ground in front of Jesus because, from her perspective, her last hope for the redemption of her little girl, who was possessed by a demon, was a touch from the man in front of her.²

A Strange Reaction

Mark 7:27–30 (ESV)

And 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.” 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.