

Bread Crumbs

Mark 7:24 – 30

I. Intro

- A. Going through Mark: focus on Jesus' humanity; Jesus fully God, but also fully human; focus on Jesus, in His humanity, serving humanity
- B. First looked at spiritual "habits" of Jesus: praying, desire – to do will of His Father, humility – didn't come to be popular, draw attention to Himself but to bring glory to God the Father
- C. Choosing disciples, He chose most unlikely men, were not on high-end of social spectrum, those even hated by religious establishment
- D. Those He healed and restored: 4 men who would go to extreme measures to get their paralyzed friend to Jesus; demon-possessed or unclean spirits (look at today); another man with severely arthritic hand; raising a young girl to life and small faith of her father; woman with long-time bleeding disorder and her great faith just to touch clothes of Jesus for healing; many others we haven't looked at
- E. Looked at teachings: about Sabbath – He is Lord of the Sabbath; about division – accused of being possessed by Satan
 - i. Parable teachings: sowing seed of the Gospel; last week – against allowing traditions/rituals overshadow the truth of God's Word
- F. Today – another account of Jesus' miracle healing; also, one of few examples in Gospels of Jesus ministering to a Gentile – early indication that the Gospel is for ALL people, Jesus came to minister to, and serve ALL people regardless of ethnicity
 - i. John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only begotten Son ...*
- G. Jesus been in Gennesaret (western shore of Sea of Galilee, south of Capernaum); what Jesus encountered when He arrived – **READ Mark 6:53 - 56**
- H. **READ Mark 7:24 – 30**; account in Matthew's gospel – **READ Matthew 15:21 - 28**
- I. Talk about woman's origin, her persistence, her reward

II. Origin

- A. Jesus gone to areas of Tyre and Sidon – Tyre, capital of Phoenicia, north of Judaea (not to be confused with Judah); Sidon, immediately north of Tyre; bordered Gentile territory (**SHOW MAP**)
- B. Jesus gone here to rest – escape for a time from crowds persistently pursuing Him; (**v. 24**) - ... *did not want anyone to know, yet He could not be hidden* (again, Mark's portrayal of the humanness of Jesus)

- C. Woman, great determination to get to Jesus (*daughter had an unclean spirit*), in Matthew – *severely oppressed by a demon*, from Phoenicia; Matthew – *a Canaanite woman*
- D. Jesus allows this “Gentile” woman to interrupt His “getaway”; the disciples different response to woman – “begged” Jesus to send her away; disciples making the determination of who is worthy, or not worthy, of Jesus’ attention
- E. We do the same – who is worthy, or not worthy, of Jesus’ salvation; who is worthy, or not worthy, of our ministry/service/attention as believers; who is worthy, or not worthy, of Christ’s love, etc
- F. **Question:** Why should God allow you into heaven when you die? Why should Christ show you mercy/grace? Because you are worthy? Because you’re a fundamentally good person, you’ve lived a basically good life?
- G. Acts 10:34-35 (ESV)
 - 34 So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality,
 - 35 but in every nation **anyone** who fears him and does what is right **is acceptable** to him.
- H. Romans 2:11 (ESV)
 - 11 For God shows no partiality.
- I. Galatians 3:28 (ESV)
 - 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for **you are all one in Christ Jesus**.
- J. [SLIDE] Doesn’t matter where you’re from, doesn’t matter what you’ve done, doesn’t matter your heritage, ethnicity, gender, etc. - anyone can come to Jesus for healing and forgiveness – to be saved from sin and eternal condemnation
- K. [SLIDE] In the church, the body of Christ, doesn’t matter where you came from, doesn’t matter what you’ve done, doesn’t matter your heritage, ethnicity, gender, etc. - we’re all ONE (the same) in the body

III. Persistence

- A. Gentile, Canaanite woman, comes to Jesus in desperation (way most people end up coming to Christ)
- B. “Little” daughter in torment – desperately serious situation – an “unclean spirit” and *severely oppressed by a demon* (Matthew)
- C. (v. 26) ... *she begged Jesus to cast the demon out ...*; literally see the growth of woman’s faith in these few verses; *begged* (Gr.), imperfect tense meaning she didn’t stop begging
- D. In Matthew, she comes crying; how she addresses Jesus – *Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David*; immediately shows she has some faith/understanding of who Jesus is – *Lord, Son of David* – likely sees Jesus

as the Messiah she's probably heard about through Jewish "grapevine", heard of great miracles Jesus has done, may even heard about some of His teachings

- E. Conversation between her and Jesus – His initial response, seems uncaring, even cruel: **REFER v. 27**
 - i. Explanation: *children* – Jews, God chosen people, first receive God's law from whom the Messiah (Christ) would come; *bread* – Gospel of Jesus Christ (Jesus' claim, *I am the bread from heaven*); *dogs* – common reference of Jewish people for Gentiles (underlying tone that Jesus referring to woman as "little dog", more a tone of compassion/empathy not ridicule)
 - ii. Woman's response to Jesus: **REFER v. 28** – see progression of faith-growth in woman – the Gospel, salvation through faith in Christ, is even needed by the Gentiles (*dogs*)
- F. Jesus acknowledges her faith: **REFER v. 29** – again, more faith-growth in woman; came to place where her faith in Christ was such that she didn't question or expect Jesus to come with her in order for her daughter to be freed from the torment of this unclean spirit in her life; she took Jesus at His word and believed Him
- G. **[SLIDE]** Don't have to "do" anything extraordinary in order to have great faith; just need to persistently trust Jesus, and the more we trust him the greater our faith becomes

IV. Reward

- A. **(v. 30)** ... *she went home*; an amazing transformation in the faith, life of this Gentile woman; Matthew 15:28 (ESV)
28 ... Jesus answered her, "**O woman, great is your faith!**"
- B. Her reward - ... *found the child lying in bed and the demon gone*; Matthew – *her daughter was healed instantly*
- C. **[SLIDE]** As believers in Christ, in persisting to seek after/follow Him daily, whatever our origin, whatever our need – most important need being deliverance from sin – as we daily trust in Him and grow in our faith, we also are promised reward
- D. Luke 6:20-23 (ESV)
20 [*Jesus*] said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.
21 "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.
22 "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man!
23 Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven;

E. Revelation 22:12 (ESV): Some of last words of Jesus recorded in scripture

12 “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense (**wages, compensation, reward**) with me, to repay each one for what he has done.

V. Close

A. Need to persistently, boldly begin pursuing after Christ today

B. Who you are, who you’ve been doesn’t matter to Him – just come

C. Know, you too can rejoice because your great reward in heaven will be waiting for you