

127. A Non-Jewish Mother and a Deaf Man Come to Jesus (Mark 7:24-37)

Prayer: Dear Lord, You are loving and merciful to all people. You want all people in Your kingdom. We confess, we judge people and other people judge us. In this Bible study, help us see how You love us and all people. Help us learn to love others the same as You love. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Mark 7:24. Jesus left and went to the area around the city named Tyre. Jesus entered a house there. Jesus didn't want anyone to know He was there. But everyone recognized Him anyway.

- Jews didn't live in Tyre and they didn't often visit there. Why did Jesus go there?
- Did Jesus succeed in getting away privately?

Mark 7:25-27. A woman there had a daughter. The daughter had an evil spirit inside her. When the woman heard that Jesus was there, she quickly went and bowed in front of Jesus. The woman was not a Jew. Her family was from the area of Syria and Phoenicia (today she would be a Syrian or Palestinian). She continued asking Jesus to throw the demon out of her daughter. Jesus continued telling her, "Let the children become satisfied first. If I take away bread from the children and feed the dogs, that is not right."

- A woman came to Jesus. What did she want? What was her problem?
- In Jesus' answer, who are the children?
 - Who are the dogs?
 - What is the bread (or who is the bread)?
 - Does it seem that Jesus wants to help her?
- Does the woman give up, or does she continue to beg Jesus?

Mark 7:28-30. The woman answered, "Lord, You are right. But even the little dogs eat crumbs from the children." Jesus told her, "Your answer is good. You can go. The demon left your daughter." The woman went home and her daughter was free from the demon.

- The woman said even the little dogs will eat crumbs of bread. What is she telling Jesus?
- Now Jesus healed the woman's daughter. Was it really that important that this woman was not a Jew? What did Jesus want from her? That she would become a Jew, or did He want something else?

Mark 7:31-32. Jesus left the area of Tyre. He traveled through Sidon and went to the area named the Decapolis, near the Sea of Galilee. Some people brought a man to Jesus. The man was deaf and couldn't speak. The people begged Jesus to touch the deaf man.

- Jesus left one area of non-Jews and went to another area of non-Jews. What happened here?
- What did the people want Jesus to do with the deaf man?

Mark 7:33-35. Jesus took the man away from the crowd. Jesus put His fingers in the deaf man's ears. Then He spit and touched the man's tongue. Jesus looked to heaven and sighed and said, "Ephphatha!" That means "Become open!" The man's ears opened and he began speaking clearly.

- What did Jesus do for the deaf man?
- Did Jesus want everyone to see Him make the man hearing?

Mark 7:36-37. Jesus commanded the people not to tell anyone, but the people talked about it more and more. People were amazed. They said, "Jesus does everything wonderful! He even makes the deaf people hear and the mute people speak."

- Why would Jesus say, "Don't tell anyone!" Who did Jesus want this miracle to help, the deaf man or the crowds of people?
- People still talked about the miracle. What did they think and say about Jesus?