

He has done all things well

[Mar 7:24-37 ESV] 24 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. 25 But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. 26 Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophoenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 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." 28 But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." 29 And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." 30 And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

31 Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. 32 And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. 33 And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. 34 And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." 35 And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. 36 And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. 37 And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

I. Intro

- A. After His conversations with the Pharisees from Jerusalem, Jesus went throughout the region of Tyre and Sidon, then to the Decapolis..
- B. The region of Tyre and Sidon and the Decapolis were Gentile areas, and lessons needed to be learned as well as people that needed healing.
- C. This was a long journey, and on this journey Jesus purposefully avoids the Jewish areas, circling all the way around from the Mediterranean coast through the Golan heights to the Decapolis.
- D. What is to come: the word spreads and another mass feeding takes place in the Gentile region.

II. Text

A. The Gentile Woman

- 1. The woman knew enough to know how the Jews felt about Gentiles.
- 2. Syrophoenicia:
 - a) Ancient Syria from the region around the coast.
 - b) Greek speaking, pagan influence
- 3. The word she uses for daughter is little girl, the word for Dog used was puppy or little dog, this is important because the reference is bigger than the physical reality and points to a spiritual truth.
- 4. She had faith in the Jewish Messiah and is willing to take the crumbs, or scraps.
- 5. Jewish people were considered the chosen ones of God, the children
- 6. Gentiles were considered and referred to as dogs, specifically wild dogs that roamed the city dump.
- 7. But notice the woman does not get offended here, she just begs for the scraps.
- 8. Her words:
 - a) In Matthew: Oh Lord, Son of David
 - b) In Mark: Lord
 - c) This pagan knew He was LORD and SON OF DAVID, the promised messiah.

B. The Gentile Man

- 1. The Decapolis (meaning "Ten Cities") was a group of ten distinct Greco-Roman cities located mainly east and southeast of the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee in modern-day Jordan, Israel, and Syria.

2. This is the area that the demon possessed man was healed in previous chapters.
3. There is quite the gathering of people developing
4. Jesus spits on his hand, touches the mans tongue, and touches his ears.
5. Then He brings healing.
6. Notice:
 - a) Jesus touches this man, did not even see or go to the little girl, but both are healed.
 - b) There was no measure of faith mentioned by either of the people who were healed.
 - c) If Jesus had done these healings in front of the Pharisees, they would have been even more offended.
 - d) Religious lines are being crossed, showing the truth of the intent of God rather than the perversion of the religion by man.
 - e) The Woman and the friends of the deaf/mute man were assertively begging Jesus, because they knew Him to be their only hope, the religious leaders were threatened by Him.
 - f) There is a parallel in this series of stories with the previous set of stories.
 - g) There is a bowing before Jesus from people outside of the Jewish culture, there is a refusal to bow from within the religious leaders.

III. Points

A. Children and Dogs

1. Be Reminded:
 - a) We are all beggars telling other beggars where to find food.
 - b) This is a quote attributed to many preachers over the years, Brennan Manning, DT Niles, DL Moody, and others.
2. This woman understood this truth
3. Two times Jesus is amazed by a persons faith: This woman, and the Centurian, both Gentiles.
 - a) Matthew records:
 - (1) [Mat 15:28 ESV] 28 Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.
 - (2) [Mat 8:10 ESV] 10 When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.
 - b) This will be important for the disciples when they start seeing the Gentiles respond to Christ in Acts and are unsure what to do about it.
 - (1) Acts 15 records the meeting of the Jerusalem Council
 - (2) They then agree that Gentiles are allowed to come to faith...
 - (3) There was plenty of evidence and teaching from Jesus, yet they still struggled with this.
4. In Mark 6:6 Jesus is amazed at their lack of faith.
5. There is an idea that after dinner they would use the leftover bread to wipe their hands off and throw those scraps to the dogs waiting near the table...and if you've ever owned a dog you know they are always waiting by the table.
6. The woman does not get offended and walk off, she responds with a huge statement of faith: THE CRUMBS WILL DO.
7. There times that Jesus is amazed by a persons lack of faith, and those times He is dealing with someone from the Jewish faith.
8. Religion continues to get in the way of true faith.
9. The Bread of life is enough, no matter if its the crumbs or the loaf.

B. Be Opened

1. Who was Jesus talking to? The man could not hear, but He said "Be opened."
2. Just as he commanded the wind and the waves, He commanded the physical healing of a man who could not speak and could not hear.

3. Only Jesus can bring hearing and understanding.
4. Only Jesus can use our tongues to speak truth that changes lives.
5. This man IMMEDIATELY was changed and proved it by then sharing what happened to everyone who would listen.
 - a) I know Jesus strictly forbade this
 - b) But what would you have done???
 - c) The man was radically changed and could not stop talking about it.
6. This should be our pattern as well, though Jesus is not telling us to keep it to ourselves any longer.
7. We should also tell everyone about the radical change God has brought to our lives!
8. If you find yourself unable to hear, seek Jesus to open your understanding
9. If you find yourself unable to speak, trust the Lord to give you utterance.
10. One of the most beautiful things in ministry is when you hear from God and when you open your mouth and God speaks through you.

C. He Has Done All Things Well

1. We know this truth to be the testimony of our lives.
2. Sometimes we blame God for things and all the while miss the point of what He is teaching us through the trial.
3. The results of these healings produced a response that was appropriate and authentic.
4. They were not bitter because God allowed or caused the problems to exist, they were amazed and had faith in the one who could provide the answers.
 - a) Pay attention to your heart during difficulties and challenges
 - b) Pay attention to what God is doing in the midst of trial
 - c) Celebrate the victory of being rescued, celebrate the opportunity to grow.
 - d) Your current situation is meant to draw you closer to God in your service of Him through whatever comes.
5. Let your faith grow, Let your life reflect that
6. In the midst of a trial or difficulty, pray for God to reveal His will and plan, and marvel at His work.

IV. Close

A. The Lord's supper:

1. Let's be reminded of the bread that was given to us as a reminder of a great spiritual work.
2. Let us be reminded of the sacrifice made for us, gentiles in the flesh, that bring us into being called children of God.
3. We are covered by the blood of Jesus, and no longer dogs or outcasts, but brought into the family!

B. Do This In Remembrance of Me