

**22S49 Mark 7:24-37 (Part 15)**

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our study of the gospel according to Mark with Mark 7:24-37 (Part 15) Jesus in the region of Tyre, Jesus honors the Syrophenician woman's faith by casting out a demon from her daughter, Jesus in the region of Decapolis and heals a deaf and mute man.

Before we start, we need to understand a little about this amazing book in the bible. Most historians believe Mark was the first written account of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. The identity of Mark is not known for sure, but most believe this is John Mark. John Mark is spoken of by Luke in Acts as the cousin of Barnabas, John Mark is mentioned in many other books on the New Testament. Many believe he spent time traveling with Peter, so it is thought that much of Mark's gospel is actually from the perspective of Peter. We also believe that John Mark knew Jesus. There are accounts that Jesus stayed at Mark's mother's home, there are also some unique story details in Mark that are not in either Matthew's or Luke's accounts. We will try to highlight some of these as we go through the stories in Mark.

I'm reading from the New American Standard version (NAS) today. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Let's read Mark 7:22-37 (NAS) *<sup>24</sup>Now Jesus got up and went from there to the region of Tyre. And when He had entered a house, He wanted no one to know about it; and yet He could not escape notice. <sup>25</sup>But after hearing about Him, a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately came and fell at His feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician descent. And she repeatedly asked Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>And He was saying to her, "Let the children be satisfied first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered and said to Him, "Yes, Lord, but even the dogs under the table feed on the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>And He said to her, "Because of this answer, go; the demon has gone out of your daughter." <sup>30</sup>And after going back to her home, she found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. <sup>31</sup>Again He left the region of Tyre and came through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>And they brought to Him one who was deaf and had difficulty speaking, and they begged Him to lay His hand on him. <sup>33</sup>And Jesus took him aside from the crowd, by himself, and put His fingers in his ears, and after spitting, He touched his tongue with the saliva; <sup>34</sup>and looking up to heaven with a deep sigh, He said to him, "Ephphatha!" that is, "Be opened!" <sup>35</sup>And his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was removed, and he began speaking plainly. <sup>36</sup>And He gave them orders not to tell anyone; but the more He ordered them, the more widely they continued to proclaim it. <sup>37</sup>And they were utterly astonished, saying, "He has done all things well; He makes even those who are deaf hear, and those who are unable to talk, speak."*

**Let's pray. Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your words from Mark, help us see what Mark wants his readers to understand and why. I pray that you help me stay**

**out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Now, let's take a closer look at these verses, Mark 7:24 (NAS) *<sup>24</sup>Now Jesus got up and went from there to the region of Tyre. And when He had entered a house, He wanted no one to know about it; and yet He could not escape notice.*

We often think Jesus was only in Galilee or Jerusalem but here He and his disciples are in the region of Tyre north of Galilee. But even in this region people recognized Jesus. Here is a map showing Galilee and the sea of Galilee to the south, the region just to the north would be the region of Tyre or the region of Syro-Phoenicia. Let's read on.



Mark 7:25-26 (NAS) *<sup>25</sup>But after hearing about Him, a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately came and fell at His feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician descent. And she repeatedly asked Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.*

Looking at our map again. Jesus is in the region of Tyre north of Galilee and a gentile woman comes to him asking that he cast a demon out of her daughter. Syro-Phoenician could just mean a woman from this region or it could mean she was originally from Phoenicia of Syria even further to the north beyond this map.

Mark 7:27 (NAS) *<sup>27</sup>And He was saying to her, “Let the children be satisfied first, for it is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.”*

I know many people have trouble with this scripture. Jesus seems like he is being a little hard on this woman. But you must understand the culture. The Jews thought of gentiles as dogs. Lesser humans. Jesus is most likely in a Jewish home with many Jews around him. This conversation is really for them.

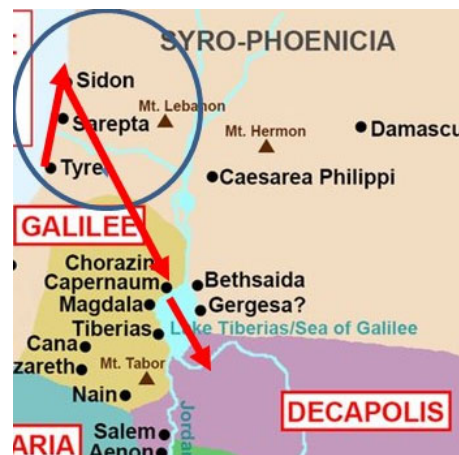
Next Mark 7:28-30 (NAS) *<sup>28</sup>But she answered and said to Him, “Yes, Lord, but even the dogs under the table feed on the children’s crumbs.” <sup>29</sup>And He said to her, “Because of this answer, go; the demon has gone out of your daughter.” <sup>30</sup>And after going back to her home, she found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.*

This lady is persistent. Even the dogs eat the crumbs from the table. She is not offended by what Jesus said, she believes Jesus can help her daughter and she is not going to be turned away so easily. Of course Jesus knows this in advance, he says “because of this answer”, your daughter is healed. And the demon was gone. Jesus did not have to go to the daughter. Jesus probably wasn't even told her name or location. The woman believed Jesus could do it. She had faith in Jesus and who Jesus was. Jesus rewarded her faith by healing her daughter. What do you think the people

around Jesus thought. Do you think some of the Jews saw that the faith of the woman, the dog, rewarded. Jesus is again showing us we must have faith in him.

Next Mark 7:31 (NAS) *<sup>31</sup>Again He left the region of Tyre and came through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of Decapolis.*

Back to our map. Jesus leaves the region of Tyre, goes through Sidon, then back to the sea of Galilee most likely to Capernaum then across the sea of Galilee to the region of Decapolis. Travel was not easy. Jesus and his disciples are most likely walking. It's only one verse in the bible but this was a long trip days maybe weeks. We don't know exactly where Jesus was in the region of Tyre but we know he went through Sidon before going back to Galilee.



Next Mark 7:32 (NAS) *<sup>32</sup>And they brought to Him one who was deaf and had difficulty speaking, and they begged Him to lay His hand on him.*

Now Jesus is somewhere in Decapolis, the region of the ten cities, which is on the southeastern side of the sea of Galilee. He was Northeast of Galilee in Tyre and SyroPhoenicia. Jesus has been in this area before; the people are begging him to heal them. We have one story of this in the gospel of Mark. A deaf and dumb man. This man can't hear and he can't speak. They are begging Jesus to just touch this man so he will be healed. So, what does Jesus do.

Next Mark 7:33-35 (NAS) *<sup>33</sup>And Jesus took him aside from the crowd, by himself, and put His fingers in his ears, and after spitting, He touched his tongue with the saliva; <sup>34</sup>and looking up to heaven with a deep sigh, He said to him, "Ephphatha!" that is, "Be opened!" <sup>35</sup>And his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was removed, and he began speaking plainly.*

Jesus puts his fingers in the guy's ears, then spits on his hands and touches the guy's tongue with his saliva. I know this is a little gross but Jesus never seems to use the same method to heal. Then looks to heaven and with a deep sigh. Says Ephphatha or be opened. I wonder why all the show, other times Jesus just touches someone or speaks to them. This time he does it with spit and a sigh. Jesus knows that others are watching and this had reason to those that watched. I don't need to understand, only be amazed at what Jesus did.

Next Mark 7:36-37 (NAS) *<sup>36</sup>And He gave them orders not to tell anyone; but the more He ordered them, the more widely they continued to proclaim it. <sup>37</sup>And they were utterly astonished, saying, "He has done all things well; He makes even those who are deaf hear, and those who are unable to talk, speak."*

Jesus seems to always tell the ones he heals, "don't tell anyone". But of course, Jesus knows they will tell everyone. Jesus is not intentionally drawing attention to himself. His actions speak loudly though.

Let's review.

- 1) Dogs? It is important to keep the culture in mind when reading this scripture. Jesus was not being rude or mean. He was speaking within a culture and not wanting to offend. He had a purpose for this conversation. The Jews thought of this woman as a dog, but she had faith in Jesus and it was rewarded. Even the dogs can have faith. Gentiles, people like us can have faith in Jesus and be rewarded for that faith. Now that is very very good news.
- 2) Travel? I think that too often we minimize the effort and travel in the story of Jesus. Jesus was on the move a lot. Long distances, many days and weeks of walking. We also forget that much of his ministry was in non-Jewish areas, Tyre, Sidon, Decapolis, Gergasa and others. Jesus came for everyone.
- 3) Saliva? Ok I have to admit this grosses me out a bit. Spitting on your fingers then putting that saliva on somebody else's tongue. But Jesus did this for a reason. It shocks us and I'm sure it shocks those who were watching. But I think Jesus uses so many different methods to heal on purpose. It has nothing to do with the method and everything to do with Jesus. It's all about Jesus.

**Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for Bible. Help us to read and meditate on your words so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to ask you for wisdom when we don't understand. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen**

Let me leave you with this today. Our faith is important. That is our faith in Jesus is important. Anyone can have faith in Jesus. It does not matter where we come from, It does not matter what we have done. When we give our life to Jesus and repent of the things we've done wrong in our past. Meaning we are sorry for our mistakes and we turn away from those things and leave them behind to focus on Jesus. We intend too never do them again. We have faith in Jesus. Well, then we are new in Jesus. Reborn in his image.

What does this mean for you? Our past does not determine our future. Yes there are consequences in this life for things we have done or not done. But our happily ever after with Jesus is not impacted by what we have done in the past but what we do in the future. Jesus has forgiven us, now we need to start living like he has. Living the life Jesus wants us to live. Doing the things Jesus wants us to do. Jesus rewards are faith with an amazing satisfying life of services to others in the name of Jesus.

Thank you for joining me for our study of the gospel of Mark. Please email me comments or feedback. And if you liked the message, please share the link with your friends. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.