

Daily Bible Study

“Children & Little Dogs”

Mark 7:24-30

September 5 - 11, 2010

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY – After weeks away, we now return to our continuing study of the Gospel of Mark and take for our text **Mark 7:24-30**. We are calling this lesson “*Children & Little Dogs*” or it could be rightfully called, “...*the Jew first and also for the Greek*” in a reference to **Romans 1:16**. In this wonderful and remarkable portion of Scripture before us we have a text that is somewhat transitional. It tells us of some changes in both the earthly ministry of Jesus and also leads us up to Peter’s confession of Jesus (**Mark 8:27-30**) which serves as a turning point if you will in the Gospel of Mark as Jesus now gets specific in His preparation of His disciples and Himself for His approaching death. In our text this week we see Jesus explain that the Gospel message is for the “*whole world*”, both Jewish and Gentile people. Although the *children* were to be *filled* and satisfied *first* the *little dogs* were not a secondary afterthought in the mind of God; they were always part of His eternal plan and welcome to come and eat and be satisfied from the Bread of Life. We see throughout Scripture that the nation of Israel was God’s messenger to the other nations of the earth. Today is no different; we as both Jew and Gentile believers in Jesus make up the one “Holy Nation”, “The People of God”, and “The Israel of God”. We are to be overwhelmingly grateful and thankful to God for adopting us into His family and we are still to be messengers of His Gospel to all who are still “outside” (*aliens from the commonwealth of Israel—Ephesians 2:12*). Read our text **Mark 7:24-30**: “*From there He arose and went to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And He entered a house and wanted no one to know it, but He could not be hidden. For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet. The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. But Jesus said to her, “Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.” And she answered and said to Him, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children’s crumbs.” Then He said to her, “For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter.” And when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed.*”

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father God, Please teach and feed me from Your Word this week.

TUESDAY – **Mark 7:24** “*From there He arose and went to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And He entered a house and wanted no one to know it, but He could not be hidden.*” Now we find that Jesus

goes into the region of *Tyre and Sidon*. The people of *Tyre* and its vicinity were mentioned in Scripture prophecy in an amazing portion which tells of them being able to one day share in the blessings of the Messianic age by experiencing a *spiritual birth in Zion (Psalm 87:1-5)*. We will now see in this text clearly that this prophecy was being fulfilled as it continues to be fulfilled even today. As we have seen previously in Mark Jesus was sought out and found by the crowds even when He was going away to find some time of rest and refreshment alone. Here is one of those times when Jesus goes to be away and *entered a house and wanted no one to know it*. We need not spin our wheels here by doubting Jesus power or seeming conflict in His desire for *no one to know it*. Much has been written on this last short phrase but suffice to say, Jesus allowed Himself to be “discovered” in His time and for His purpose and glory. We find that the case by the final phrase, “...*but He could not be hidden.*” Coming away for a moment from the context I would briefly point out that fact that Jesus Christ *cannot be hidden* in a life where He is residing. You can’t hide God Beloved. Is He evident in your life (**Matthew 5:14-16**)?

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, Please help and enable me by Thy Holy Spirit to live in such a way that Jesus can be clearly seen in my thoughts, words, deeds and attitudes.

WEDNESDAY – **Mark 7:25-26** “*For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet. The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.*” Not only did Jesus’ whereabouts not remain a secret, He soon had people coming to Him and Mark tells us of this one particular lady. We are told, *a woman...* Truly throughout Scripture the heart of Jesus is seen in His care and concern for women. He is a true gentleman if I may in that He is respectful and kind toward those who in that society and sadly today often find mistreatment and exploitation. Matthew in his account of this story describes this lady by saying she was a *woman of Canaan*, a Canaanite. To the Jewish mind the Canaanite people were a wicked enemy who brought conflict, fighting, and fear (**Genesis 12:6, 13:7, Joshua 9:1-2, 11:1-3**). Although a Canaanite, and a woman, (perhaps a widow?), Jesus deals with her problem, a very grave problem from the heart of a hurting mother, but He also graciously teaches her as well as exercises His Divine command and authority over the entire discourse. We find Mark describes her problem and hurting by saying, “*whose young daughter had an unclean spirit*”, and “*she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter*”. Mark uses the Greek word Thugatrimon for the girl which by definition refers to her as the woman’s “little daughter”. This tender touch by Mark illustrates the compassion of this woman for her daughter and helps intensify the reader’s thoughts of, “Is there hope for this poor lady and her little child?” Sin and its heartbreak reach even the “little daughters” of society Beloved and here we see this girl and her mom suffering from its horrible consequences. What was wonderful in this story is that the woman *heard about Him (Jesus)* and came understanding her

need and His ability to meet it. Her understanding and desire is shown in her posture (*she came and fell at His feet*) as well as the words, “*she kept asking*”. Erotao can be defined, “*beg*” and it is in the imperfect tense which indicates continuous action on her part. Do we show this humility, reverence, dependence, and submission before Christ as we come before Him realizing our need?

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me to be like the woman in this story as well as the one in Jesus parable who relentlessly and continually came before the judge seeking help.

THURSDAY – Mark 7:27-28 “*But Jesus said to her, ‘Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.’ And she answered and said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children’s crumbs.’*” Paul has told us clearly in **Romans 1:16** that in the eternal plan of God He decided that the blessings found in Christ; specifically the Gospel was to be brought first to the “*children*” the Jews. They were, as Jesus said to be “*filled*” (to fatten, to fill or satisfy) first. This word is used in the Sermon on the Mount when Jesus says, “*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled*”. Notice both in The Sermon on the Mount and here in this story Jesus does not slam the door shut on the hungry or needy. He says specifically here in this text; “**First**”. God’s plan extended the Bread first to the *children* first and Jesus makes known it would be like throwing bread to the *dogs* to do otherwise. Scriptures such as **Acts 13:44-48** illustrate that the plan of God was to have the Gospel extended to Jew and Gentile. Jesus is making sure this lady understands she is unworthy to receive blessing from Him as we all are and it would be a great privilege for Him to bless and honor her request. She as well as all of us Gentiles should not take lightly or for granted that God has enabled us to be His people, His Israel. This is what The Apostle Paul reminds us in **Romans 11:13-27**. This lady’s response to Jesus indicates a God given faith as she realizes that Jesus was not turning her away but drawing her out and to Himself. Jesus was stern in His response to her but His love, mercy, and compassion were still visible. Jesus refers to her and Gentiles as *dogs*; specifically Kunarion, or “*a little dog*”. She gets what He is teaching her that although she is merely a little house dog even she can come under the table and find bread. God in His mercy allowed her and us Gentiles to eat the children’s scraps if you will. **Calvin**: “The woman’s reply showed that she was not hurried along by a blind or thoughtless impulse to offer a flat contradiction to what Christ had said. As God preferred the Jews to other nations, she does not dispute with them the honor of adoption, and declares; that she has no objection whatever that Christ should *satisfy* them according to the order which God had prescribed. She only asks that some *crumbs* — falling, as it were, accidentally — should come within the reach of *the dogs* And at no time, certainly, did God shut up his grace among the Jews in such a manner as not to bestow a small taste of them on the Gentiles. No terms could have been employed that would have described more appropriately, or more justly, that dispensation of the grace of God which was at that time in full operation.” Lord willing, we’ll look in more detail this Lord’s Day at God’s dealings with Jew & Gentile in history.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, we are reminded of our unworthiness before you as merely “little dogs”. Thank You for Your mercy and grace and that You have adopted us into Your family.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – Mark 7:29-30 “Then He said to her, “For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter.” And when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed.” Jesus does not mean that because she was a clever speaker He answered her request; but rather, He is saying that because she had the faith to receive and believe what He was teaching her she could go and find here request answered. Her responses to Jesus revealed that she had a true faith, hope, and expectation that centered in Him; He was her focal point and she trusted Him. Matthew records that Jesus specifically mentions her *great faith* and she demonstrates the obedience of a true child with great faith by going home as Jesus commanded; she obeys Christ (*And when she had come to her house*). What also helps make the point that she understood and possessed true, genuine faith in Jesus is again found in Matthew’s record. There she refers to Jesus as, “*O Lord, Son of David*”. She knew that the Messiah, the anointed One of God, the royal King of Kings was David’s greater Son. She knew and believed that it was He who would bring the blessings of God to men and make peace for them through His person and His work He was sent to accomplish. She believed in Jesus to the point that she trusts Him that He did in fact heal here daughter without actually seeing the daughter whole. “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen*” (**Hebrews 11:1**). And the final verse tells us what we already know to be true of those who have true faith in Jesus; He will not disappoint. “*He that believeth in Him shall never be ashamed*” (**Isaiah 28:16, Romans 10:11, 1 Peter 2:6**). When the woman gets home she finds her daughter resting in bed and free from the demon that had tormented her. What joy and praise must have filled her heart? May we contemplate such a wonderful Savior as Jesus and understand He has blessed us beyond measure!

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You so very much for Your love for Me. Help me to have faith in You like this woman did. Keep me aware, humbled, and rejoicing in Your great grace. All honor, glory and praise be to You Holy Trinity both now and forevermore, Amen.