

**GOOD NEWS FROM THE KING**  
***A Study of the Gospel According to Mark***  
**Mark 7:24–37**  
*Holy Bible, New International Version ©2011*

*"'Lord,' she replied, 'even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.'"* Mark 7:28

**Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your heart to his word.**

Read through this week's passage and jot down any thoughts and questions you may have.

**Read Mark 7:24–30.**

1. Find the region of Tyre on your map. What does Jesus hope this location will enable him to do? (v. 24; Consider 6:31–32.)

2. Describe the woman who comes and falls at the feet of Jesus. (vv. 25–26)

How might she have known about the healing power of Jesus? (Mark 3:8)

3. Jesus gives an unusual response to her begging by telling a short parable. What is represented by:
  - the children who should be fed first? (Mark 1:38–39; Exodus 4:22; Romans 1:16)
  - the bread? (Mark 1:15; Matthew 4:4; John 6:32–35)
  - the dogs? (Acts 22:21; Ephesians 4:17–19)

4. Why does Jesus grant her request? (vv. 28–29; Matthew 15:27–28)

5. How does the woman's humble faith encourage you?

**Great Faith in a Generous God**

"God's abundance for His children was so rich that even the total outsider could share in it. It was a great Old Testament truth that in Abraham, and therefore in Israel, all nations would be blessed ultimately (Gn. 22:18); [the woman] claimed this."<sup>1</sup>

6. What has been God's plan all along? (Genesis 12:1–3; Ephesians 3:4–6)

**Read Mark 7:31–37.**

7. Jesus leaves Tyre and continues further into Gentile territory to first go north through Sidon before turning south towards the Sea of Galilee. But he again goes to the Gentiles, this time by returning to the "region of the Decapolis" (v. 31). Locate this on your map.

a. What need does the man have who is brought to Jesus? (v. 32)

b. How might these people have known about the healing power of Jesus? (Mark 5:18–20)

8. Jesus communicates with the deaf man in a simple form of sign language.

a. What does he do to heal the man? (vv. 33–34)

b. What might the deaf and mute man have understood by these signs?

9. Mark uses the word *mogilalos* to describe the man's speech impediment which is used only one other place in Scripture. Read Isaiah 35:5–6 which includes, "and the mute [*mogilalos*] tongue shout for joy." What does the connection between these two stories teach us about Jesus? (Matthew 11:2–6)

10. Bible teacher John MacArthur describes this man as one “who was permitted to speak, but not able and then able to speak but not permitted.”<sup>2</sup>

a. What command does Jesus give the man and his friends? (v. 36)

b. Why don't they obey this command? (v. 37)

**Why the big secret?**

“The revelation of Jesus as Messiah had to begin discreetly and proceed by stages so that the plan of God for the death of His Servant would not be jeopardized by any excesses of popular enthusiasm.”<sup>3</sup>

11. As you ponder the miracles Jesus has done for the Syrophenician woman and the deaf-mute man, what have you learned about Jesus that causes you too to be “overwhelmed with amazement” (v. 37)?

12. What is something that God “has done...well” (v. 37) in your life which you would like to tell your group?

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This lesson on Mark's Gospel is adapted from “Life of a Servant” by New Life Glenside Women's Bible Study, 2002–2003.

<sup>1</sup> R. Alan Cole, *Mark*, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2008), 193.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. John MacArthur, “To Speak or Not to Speak – Mark 7:31–37”, May 9, 2010, <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/41-35/to-speak-or-not-to-speak>.

<sup>3</sup> *New Geneva Study Bible*, gen. ed. Drs. R.C. Sproul (Foundation for Reformation, 1995), 1563, (note on 1:34).