

# Sunday Morning Equipping Class

## The Gospel of Mark

Mark 6:7-8:26

1:22 authority. Jesus' teaching was based on His own personal authority in contrast to that of the scribes, whose manner of teaching was to quote the authoritative statements of scribes who had gone before. 1:32 after the sun had set. Burdens could not be carried on the Sabbath (v. 21), but the next day, when they could be, began at sundown.

1:38 that is what I came out for. I.e., that is why I left Capernaum. 1:40 leper. See note on Luke 5:12. The laws concerning leprosy are found in Lev. 13-14. 1:44 say nothing to anyone. Jesus did not want people coming to Him merely to receive physical benefits. The result of the leper's failure to obey is seen in v. 45.

2:5 See note on Matt. 9:2. 2:8 in His spirit. I.e., intuitively. 2:10 the Son of Man. A favorite title of Christ, used 14 times in Mark. See note on Matt. 8:20 for its significance. 2:18 Jesus' disciples did not fast because it was incompatible with the joy they had in being

with Him. On the Jews' fasting, see note on Matt. 9:14. The N.T. church did not fast regularly as a prescribed rite, though it was done on occasion (Acts 13:2-3; 14:23). Whenever practiced, it is never to be done ostentatiously (Matt. 6:16-18).



## Mark 6:53

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53 When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore.



# Mark 4: 11-12

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11 And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, 12 so that

“they may indeed see but not perceive,  
and may indeed hear but not understand,  
lest they should turn and be forgiven.”



# Mark 7:18-23

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18 And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, 19 since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?”[a] (Thus he declared all foods clean.) 20 And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. 21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”



# Three major recurring themes:

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1. Bread

2. Hearing and understanding

3. Clean and unclean



# Mark 7: 24-30

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24 And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon.[a] 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.



# On Your Own

Look over the text and make observations. For example, who are the main characters? What are we told about them? What happens? Are there things that strike you as odd?



# Three Interpretations of Mark 7:24-30

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## 1. Barbara Kay Lundblad, “Matthew 15:21-28: Teaching Jesus”:

“A Canaanite woman cries out to Jesus to heal her daughter. By the end of the story, her daughter has been healed – but between the crying and the healing, Jesus says some terrible things. He’s arrogant, racist, and just plain mean...[Through this woman] Jesus was converted...to a larger vision of the commonwealth of God. Jesus saw and heard a fuller revelation of God in the voice and in the face of the Canaanite woman...The Canaanite woman taught Jesus that she and her daughter [i.e. Gentiles] deserve more than crumbs...If Jesus could be changed, can we?”



# Three Interpretations of Mark 7:24-30

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## 2. Chuck Queen, “Even Jesus Fell Short of Perfect Love”:

**“The straightforward meaning of the story suggest this woman taught Jesus a lesson in love and inclusion...I’m fortunate that my church leadership gives me the freedom to state the obvious, namely: There were times Jesus fell short of the ideals of love and learned from his failures.**

I find this story encouraging because I know I fail at love almost daily. This story teaches me that there is hope for all of us that we can learn from our failures and become more empathetic, compassionate, caring, and inclusive.”



# Three Interpretations of Mark 7:24-30

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## 3. Austin Steelman, “Jesus and the Syrophoenician Woman: A Lesson on Refugees and Law School Seals”:

“This is Jesus writing Gentiles off as second-tier citizens...Jesus’ statement was full of prejudice and ethnocentrism.

This story calls us to confront Jesus’ humanity. Being human means being embedded in a culture. It means growing up with a certain worldview. It means inheriting traditions and language and biases—biases that can be wrongheaded and hurtful and alienating. Biases like the exclusion of Gentiles from the community of faith and the circle of those deserving compassion...

You see, Jesus doesn’t cling to his prejudice. He listens...Jesus listens. And he changes his mind...The hero of this story is not Jesus, but the Syrophoenician woman...”



# At Your Table

Could these be valid interpretations of this text? Why or why not?



# Good Rules of Thumb:

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1. Does it make sense canonically? In other words, does it fit in the larger context of scripture?
2. Does it make sense theologically? In other words, does it fit with other clear biblical teachings?



# Theologically:

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## 1. Is Jesus sinful?

- 2 Corinthians 5:21: 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- Hebrews 4:15: 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.



# Theologically:

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## 2. Did Jesus need fuller revelation of God?

- John 1:14, 18
  - 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son[a] from the Father, full of grace and truth.
  - 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God,[a] who is at the Father's side,[b] he has made him known.
- Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
- Hebrews 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,



# At Your Table

What is Jesus doing here and what is the passage communicating?



# The Three Themes:

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1. Who is clean and unclean?



# The Three Themes:

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## 2. Hearing and Understanding



# The Three Themes:

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Mark 7:25 But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet.



# The Three Themes:

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Mark 7:28 But she answered him, “Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.”



# The Three Themes:

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Mark 7:29-30 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.



# The Three Themes:

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## 3. Bread



# Takeaways

1. Has your attitude towards this passage changed today? If so, how?
2. Did you have any “aha” moments?
3. How do you respond when God gives a hard word? Does it mirror Mark 7 or reflect something else?
4. What impact does this text have on your Monday morning?