

Mark 7:24-30
Crumbs of Mercy & Grace

"In essence, she said: 'Yes, Lord, I understand. I have no prior claim to Your mercy. I am not numbered among the children. I have no right to sit at the table and feast on the food that You set before Your children. I do not want that. I'm satisfied, Lord, with the crumbs. All I'm asking is that You will let me have one crumb from Your table. Then I'll be satisfied. Heal my daughter, please..."

Do you see the difference between this woman and the Pharisees? She was not interested in fighting for her rights or for her dignity. She knew who she was... the true believer savors every crumb that comes from the hand of God. The good news is that in the overflow of mercy and grace that comes to us from the hands of God, though we should be satisfied with crumbs, He is not satisfied with giving us crumbs. He has lavished his grace on us." R.C. Sproul

- I. The offer of salvation only appeals to those who know that they need of a Savior. In the case of the Syrophenician woman, she was looking to Jesus to save her little daughter. But in so doing, she was offered more than her daughter back. What Jesus gave her was to a deeper understanding of what it meant to receive something she didn't deserve. He gave her **a heartfelt understanding** of how the Lord honors faith, **a deep appreciation** of being given grace and mercy, and the **joy** of seeing her daughter set free. Praise God we have been given that and so much more as those who saw a need for the saving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Mark 7:24-26

Ezek. 28:1-2

Matt 15:22b

Titus 3:4-7 *But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

- II. Jesus' response to the woman was not meant to be derogatory in any way. It was meant to challenge her to think more deeply about who was standing before her. He was testing her heart to see if she was just merely looking to him for a favor, or truly seeking him because she knew he was the Messiah. Her response showed a humble understanding of knowing her place as a gentile deserving nothing, of knowing that Jesus is a God of grace and mercy, and of knowing that he was the only one who could save her daughter. She put her complete trust in him for salvation, and he honored it.

Mark 7:27-30

Matt 15:23-24

Rom. 1:16

"Yes, Lord." The only time in this gospel that Jesus is addressed as 'lord.' NIV txt. note

κυνάριον kynáριον "a little dog, a puppy,"

In that day, Jews often called Gentiles "dogs" in a very derogatory way. "To the Greek, the word dog meant a shameless and audacious woman; it was used exactly with the connotation that we use the word bitch to-day. To the Jews it was equally a term of contempt." (Barclay)

Eph. 2:11-13 ¹¹ *Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—* ¹² *remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.* ¹³ *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

- III. Jesus' response to the man who was deaf and mute saved him from a life of confusion and frustration. To the perceiving Jew who had a heart to think deeper, Jesus was showing them the fulfillment of Isaiah 35. He came as the True Shepherd to the lost sheep of Israel and was doing everything in his power to save them from a life of confusion and frustration without him. That's his desire for everyone who doesn't know him.

Mark 7:31-37

1 Tim. 2:3-4 *This is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Isa. 35:5-6 *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;*