

Mark 7:24-37  
Jesus Is **The** Christ for Everyone  
6/12/22

**ILL:** **Jacob Chamberlain** (19<sup>th</sup> C. missionary to India) says the following: “[I saw] a man who had crawled many agonizing miles on his knees and elbows to bathe in that “**sacred stream**” the **Ganges [River]**. The poor **exhausted** soul made his prayer to Gunga [the river g-d], and then slipped into the water. But he emerged w/ the **same** conviction of sin as b/f. The fear of death still **haunted** his heart.”

Chamberlain then told him the wonderful story of **God’s Grace** and how Christ died on **Calvary** to **rescue sinners**. The man staggered to his feet w/ **New Hope**, clasped his hands together, and shouted, “**Oh, that’s what I need! Forgiveness and peace!**” Chamberlain soon led him to **accept** Jesus as his Savior<sup>i</sup>.

RN: We can wash dirt from our bodies, but can we always wash **filth** from our hearts? We can drop heavy loads from our backs, but can we always drop a heavy load of **condemnation** from our hearts? We can heal our bodies, but can we always **Regenerate** our hearts?

AN: There’s nothing that we can do to drop our condemning sense of guilt for sin, until we to bring our filthy, overloaded, and dead hearts to Jesus in Faith, trusting Him to **cleanse us, free us, and transform** us.

**BI:** Jesus can draw **any** sinner to Himself, so Jesus is the Christ for everyone. **Please turn in your Bibles to Mk 7:24-31.**

- I. Today, we’ll see how a **lapdog** has her day.
- II. And, we’ll what Jesus does to **break** the chains of illness.
- III. Finally, we’ll see why Jesus can’t **shush** the Crowd.

Jesus is **the** Christ for everyone. **[Pray]**

*Jesus leaves Galilee and enters Gentile territory. And, He shows once again that the traditional views on impurity don’t restrain Him when it comes to touching lives for God’s Kingdom. IOW, to Jesus, all impure foods can be eaten, and all impure people can be rescued. So, what happens in Gentile territory from this point on is a snapshot of what is going to happen when the Gospel circles the globe.*

(TRN) In (24-30), a **lapdog** has her day.

**Mark 7:24–30 (NASB95)** <sup>24</sup> **Jesus got up and went away from there to the region of Tyre. And when He had entered a house, He wanted no one to know [of it];**

<sup>i</sup> “A Look at Calvary,” INFOsearch Pro ver 4.3P.

*yet He could not escape notice. <sup>25</sup> But after hearing of 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 the Syrophenician race. And she kept asking 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 going back to her home, she found the child lying on the bed, the demon having left.*

**(24)** Jesus leaves **Gennesaret** (6:53) and goes to the outskirts of **Tyre**, a major **Mediterranean** seaport about **40 mi. N** of **Capernaum** in **Phoenicia** (modern Lebanon).

A. Tyre is also a place of historic **anti-Semitism**: Queen Jezebel came from Tyre, and she almost caused the apostasy of the entire Northern Kingdom w/ Baal worship.

1. What's more, in **2 BC**, Tyre and the **Seleucids** fought against the **Maccabeas**. And, the Jewish historian Josephus called the Tyrinians, "**our bitterest enemies.**"

2. The Jews also make no bones about the fact that the **Tyrinians** are **infamous Pagans** who practice the **grossest** idolatry. So, from the Jewish **POV**, Jesus is going to the **most impure people** of impure people.

3. Consequently, we can tell from the git-go, that God will show us some **key** Truths about Grace, Faith, and Jesus.

B. Now, Jesus goes to Tyre, b/c He wants to be **alone** w/ His **Followers**. IOW, He wants some face time w/ them. But He can't stay undercover for very long.

1. Jesus' fame is spreading to all the cities along the trade routes. And, many people have seen His ministry in action. So, the minute Jesus sets foot in Tyre, the news spreads like wildfire.

**(25-26)** Now, a **Desperate Greek Woman** hears about Jesus' arrival, so she runs to Jesus and falls at His feet. She's not only showing deep reverence for Jesus, but she's also showing her raging, heartbreaking, agonizing **grief**. **Here's why—**

A. An unclean spirit rules and torments her little girl. So, this Desperate Woman loudly begs Jesus over and over again to rescue her baby. Again, the circumstances set the question of impurity b/f Jesus.

1. And, the question is this: Will Jesus turn His back on this **unclean** woman who comes from an **unclean** culture and believes in an **unclean** religion that has chained her **unclean** daughter to an **unclean** spirit?

2. IOW, will Jesus protect Himself from **ritual** impurity, or will He take the mother and daughter's impurity **on Himself** for God's glory and their rescue?

B. Jesus doesn't owe this woman from the **Greco-Syrian** province of **Phoenicia** the time o' day: First, she's a **stranger** to Israel's Covenants and promises.

1. Also, she's not only a woman, she's also a Greek, from a nation that revels in the filthiest idolatry—so, what self-respecting rabbi would talk to her, let alone help her.

2. And finally, she's trained her daughter in the impure, enslaving world of her idolatrous religion, which traffics in demonic signs, wonders, and apparitions.

3. IOW, shouldn't Jesus say, **"Tough teabags, Lady! You made your bed now sleep in it!"** But, listen to how Jesus **draws out** her heart's **clean** intentions.

**(27-28)** He says, **"It's not right to butt into a family meal to feed the lapdogs."** IOW, Jesus says that it's not proper for Him to stop ministry to His Followers, s/t that He can minister to her—a **Gentile**.

A. Jesus words aren't sharp, but some people might think that they're unkind, given her frantic situation. But, remember these **3** facts: **1)** The Greek noun that Jesus uses for **"dog"** means **"pet dog or lapdog,"** not **"mongrel gutter dog."**

1.1 So, Jesus isn't insulting her; He's using commonly understood terms for **"insiders and Outsiders"** to mark the **difference** b/t Jews and Gentiles.

**2)** Jesus **can see into** her heart, so He knows she sees Him as Merciful. **3)** Jesus knows that she can teach His Followers a **vital lesson** about Faith.

B. Now, this Desperate Woman doesn't miss a beat. She **respectfully agrees** w/ Jesus. Of course, the Jews have priority when it comes to enjoying God's blessing.

1. But, their blessings are so plentiful that there are certainly leftovers for her and her daughter, just as lapdogs always get little tidbits now and then as the kids eat lunch.

2. IOW, the Desperate Woman sees that Jesus **owes her nothing**, but she still trusts in His Mercy to give her a teensy-weensy little bit of His Grace to satisfy her need, b/c even a yapping little lapdog has her day.

**(29-30)** You can see Jesus smiling as He says, **“B/c you’ve humbly trusted Me, I want you to know that the unclean spirit has already left your daughter.”**

A. IOW, **unlike** the leaders of Israel, this **Trusting** Gentile Woman has shown the kind of Faith that the **God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel** always honors. Jesus knows it and has granted her plea even b/f she made it.

1. And as such, this Trusting Gentile Woman not only intercedes for her daughter, but she also sets an example of Faith for Jesus’ ritually clean Jewish Followers to **imitate**.

2. **READ THAT** this Greek Woman takes Jesus at His word, so He treats her like a **Child of Israel**, not a Gentile **Outsider**. IOW, she gets the **Gospel** the **1<sup>st</sup>** time out. So, Israel’s blessings flow lavishly to her, too.

B. Now, to drive his point home, Mark reports that when this Trusting Woman goes home, she finds her daughter resting on her bed—**clean, sane, and peaceful**.

1. And, it’s not much of a stretch to believe that this Trusting Woman and her daughter become members of God’s Kingdom from this point on.

C. Now, this miracle is unique in the **NT** b/c Jesus wills **w/out** a word. So, the little girl’s long-distance rescue is one of His foremost acts of Compassion and Power.

1. What’s more, Jesus’ incredible miracle shows that Salvation is in **Jesus, not** in the **Law**. So, His Salvation is open to everyone, b/c Jesus is **the Christ** for everyone.

**D. ILL:** A **Roman Emperor** was parading through the streets of his imperial city during a victory celebration. And, burly **Legionnaires** lined his triumphal route to hold back the cheering Crowd. At the mid-point of the parade, the Emperor’s **Family** sat on a platform. And, as the Emperor approached, his **6-year-old Son** jumped down, burrowed through the Crowd, and tried to reach him. But, **1** of the Legionnaires caught the boy and said, **“Stop! That’s the Emperor!”** And, the boy shouted back, **“He may be your Emperor, but he’s my Daddy!”**

**E. APPL:** When we Trust Jesus, He treats us like **Insiders** not Outsiders. So, through Faith, we become **Father God’s Chosen People** and enjoy His most lavish blessings.

We can become Father God’s Chosen People, b/c Jesus is **the Christ** for everyone.

(TRN) In (31-35), Jesus **breaks the chains** of a chronic illness.

**Mark 7:31–35 (NASB95)** <sup>31</sup> *Again He went out from the region of Tyre, and came through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, within the region of Decapolis.* <sup>32</sup> *They*

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<sup>ii</sup> “He’s My Father!” Ibid.

*brought to Him one who was deaf and spoke with difficulty, and they implored Him to lay His hand on him.*

<sup>33</sup> *Jesus took him aside from the Crowd, by himself, and put His fingers into 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!**" [Efa'-tha] 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.*

**(31-32)** Jesus leaves Tyre and heads **20 mi. N** to the region of **Sidon**. Then, He turns **SE** to the **Decapolis** region near the **Sea of Galilee** where the former **Gerasene** demoniac witnessed about the "**great things God had done for him.**"

A. And as such, Jesus is driving deeper into impure Gentile territory, showing that His Salvation is for everybody—even **us** impure, morally backward, Gentiles Outsiders.

B. Now, while Jesus travels through Decapolis, some people bring a deaf, tongue-tied man to Him. And, they beg Jesus to touch him and heal him.

1. Now, the Greek adjective for "**tongue-tied**" means to "**speak w/ difficulty.**" It's a very rare word. And, it's only used here in the **NT** and **1** time in the **LXX** version of **Is 35:6**—

**Isaiah 35:6 (NASB95)** <sup>6</sup> *Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah.*

2. IOW, this Greek adjective links this deaf, tongue-tied man's healing w/ the coming of God's Kingdom the **Millennium**. And as such, the people can see God's Kingdom visibly ruling on earth through Jesus.

3. **READ THAT** Jesus' miracles prove that God wants to draw everyone to Himself and His Gracious, Kind, Merciful, Compassionate, Forgiving Love.

**(33-35)** Jesus uses sign language and His warm, gentle touch to explain what's going to happen to the deaf man, b/c Jesus wants to **strengthen** his Faith.

A. **1)** Jesus separates the deaf man, b/c Jesus wants him to see that He considers him a person worthy of His attention. Then, Jesus touches his ears w/ His fingers.

B. Then, Jesus spits and touches the man's tongue w/ His saliva. Jesus is **symbolically** showing the deaf man that He's going to heal his ears and his speech.

1. Using a **VIP's** saliva for healing isn't odd in the **G/R** world. The historian **Tacitus** says that Emperor Vespasian was surprised to learn that his saliva healed a blind man.

2. So, Jesus reassures the deaf man in a culturally relevant way. IOW, Jesus is **not** performing magic; Jesus is giving this man **Hope** in a way that he can **understand**.

C. And, here's another revealing fact: Jesus does this healing up close and personal. IOW, Jesus draws this impure, morally backward, Gentile Outsider to Himself, s/t He can show this deaf man His Gracious, Kind, Merciful, Compassionate, Forgiving Love.

D. Then, Jesus looks up to Heaven, sighs deeply, and He says in Aramaic, "Open up completely!" And, the Healed man can **hear** like a **bat** and **talk** like a **roaring lion**.

1. The Greek here is eloquent. The phrase, "the impediment of his tongue was removed," literally means in Greek, "the chain of his tongue was broken."

2. IOW, Jesus sets this man free from his physical slavery, and shows Himself to be the **Liberator** of **Gentiles** as well as Jews.

**E. ILL:** *CONTEXT: This is a true story. A Christian LAPD police sergeant told it to me.*

A grimy **Homeless Woman** had been arrested for a crime. As the female **Officers** booked her, they removed her shoes to search for contraband.

Now, one of the Officers noticed that the Homeless Woman's socks were so filthy that they were **black**.

Then, this Officer sat down. Took off her boots. Removed her clean white duty socks and **put them on** the Homeless Woman's feet.

**F. APPL:** Like this Officer, Jesus does His saving work up close and personal. So, Jesus draws impure, morally backward, Outsiders to Himself in Gracious, Kind, Merciful, Compassionate, Forgiving Love.

Jesus draws Outsiders to Himself, b/c Jesus is **the** Christ for everyone.

(TRN) In (36-37), Jesus can't **shush** the Crowd.

**Mark 7:36-37 (NASB95)** <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> *They were utterly astonished, saying, "He has done all things well; He makes even the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."*

**(36-37)** Jesus keeps telling the Crowd not to spread the news, b/c He doesn't want the people of Decapolis to **typecast** Him as a miracle worker and nothing more. Jesus wants the Crowd to build their Faith on Gospel Truth, **not** confirming miracles.

A. Miracles are great, but the path to Glory is the **way of the Cross**. IOW, growing Faith, growing Holiness, growing Obedience, and growing Endurance link us to Jesus.

1. But, the more Jesus shushes them, the more the Crowd spreads the news, until the whole Decapolis region is buzzing. Like the Jews, the Gentiles don't get Jesus either.

B. Jesus' miracles knock everybody's socks off. They can't believe what they've seen w/ their own eyes. And, Mark sums up what they're saying about Jesus:

1. **"His miracles are breathtaking! He can make the deaf hear like bats, and He can make the tongue-tied roar like lions!"**

C. And as such, Jesus fulfills prophecy: **Isaiah 35:3–6 (NASB95)** <sup>3</sup> ***Encourage the exhausted and strengthen the feeble. <sup>4</sup> Say to those with anxious heart, "Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come [with] vengeance; The recompense of God will come, but He will save you."***

<sup>5</sup> ***Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.***

<sup>6</sup> ***Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah.***

1. IOW, **the Christ** is working among His people, and Jesus' miracles prove it. **READ THAT** Jesus' incredible miracles show that Salvation is **in Jesus, not the Law**, and His Salvation is open to everyone.

**D. ILL:** On a flight to **California**, a chaplain at **Stanford University** talked w/ a **Christian Woman** who had adopted a **Jewish Daughter** during **WWII**. She said that after **Hitler** annexed **Poland**, the **Nazis** came to her village to deport the Jews.

She'd been shopping near the train station where **German Soldiers** loaded Jews into box cars. These forsaken Jews were destined to die in a concentration camp.

Then, this Christian woman saw a Nazi pushing a Jewish woman toward the station, and a **Little Girl** toddled behind her. Suddenly, he stopped the Jewish woman and shouted, **"Is that your daughter?"** The Christian woman was standing nearby, so the **Terrified Mother** looked straight into her eyes and said, **"No, the child is hers."** From that moment on, the Christian woman took this Jewish girl as her own<sup>iii</sup>.

<sup>iii</sup> "We've Been Adopted," Ibid.

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**E. APPL:** We must understand this **key** Truth about Christ's miracles: God sent **the Christ** into the World to **save** the World. So, Jesus is everyone's Christ.

Salvation is **open** to everyone, b/c Jesus is **the** Christ for everyone.

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