

Bible Stories for Adults

Jesus Heals a Canaanite's Daughter

Mark 7:1-30

Opening

- Gathering: What are some things that society approves but God condemns?
What are some things that society condemns but God approves?
- Today's Focus: Jesus taught that a sinful heart makes one unclean while a faithful heart makes one whole.
- Key Verses: *But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man unclean.* Matthew 15:18
- Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted. And her daughter was healed from that very hour." Matthew 15:28*

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Past The Peak (*John 6:22-7:1*)

- What miracles did Jesus perform about a year before He died?
John 6:10-13, 16, 19 (1-21)
- How did the crowd feel about Jesus after being fed with 2 fish and 5 loaves?
John 6:14-15
- How did Jesus feel about the Jews recognizing Him as the Messiah?
John 6:24-27 (21-27)
- How did the Jews respond to Jesus' clarification of His purpose and being?
John 6:32-35, 40-42 (28-42)
- How did the Jews react as Jesus further explained that we must feed on Him, the Word of God?
John 6:52, 57, 60-61, 64-66 (43-66)
- Did the twelve apostles want to leave also?
John 6:67-69 (67-71)
- Did the Jews just ignore Jesus from this point on?
John 7:1

Clean and Unclean Food (*Mark 7:1-23*)

- Was Jesus able to avoid problems from devout Jews from Judea by staying in Galilee?
Mark 7:1-5
- How did Jesus point out that these Jews were trying to cause trouble rather than keep the Law?
Mark 7:6-8, 13 (6-13)
- How did Jesus then make sure the crowd understood God's desire for cleanliness?
Mark 7:14-15
- Was Jesus concerned that He might offend the devout Jews by speaking against Jewish standards?
Matthew 15:12-15
- How did Jesus feel about His apostles being slow to learn this close to the end of His ministry?
Matthew 15:16
- What did Jesus mean by His "parable"?
Mark 7:18-23

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A Place to Teach (*Matthew 15:21*)

What, therefore, became a key focus of Jesus' ministry as He neared its end?

Mark 9:30-32

What happened whenever Jesus tried to find a place to be with just His apostles?

Matthew 14:13-14, 34-36

Where did Jesus finally find a place where the Jewish crowds wouldn't follow?

Matthew 15:21

International Travel Log

Tyre and Sidon were cities of Phoenicia, which was a part of Syria (Libo-Phoenicia was in North Africa)

Tyre was 40 miles NW of Capernaum, Sidon was 60 miles N of Capernaum

Tyre means *The Rock* - 2 great rocks offshore joined by a 3000 ft long ridge - natural harbor

Rocks gave defense, Tyre had a famous fortress, taken by Alexander the Great in 332 BC

Solomon got craftsmen and cedar logs from Tyre to build palace and temple (1 Kings 7 and 9)

Tyre & Sidon sailors were first to navigate by the stars - Could sail across Mediterranean, even at night

Other ships hugged coastline during the day, anchored at night

Tyre and Sidon were independent and rival city-states - ruled 15-20 mile radius

Each had their own kings, their own coinage and their own gods

Pagan, idolatrous, sacrificed infants to dedicate buildings

Canaanites - Even Worse than Samaritans (*Matthew 15:22*)

Besides finding a quiet place, why would Jesus take His apostles to Tyre/Sidon at this time?

Ezra 6:21

What did the Jews understand about this region of Tyre and Sidon?

Joshua 19:24, 28-29a

What command had the Israelites been given before they were sent into the promised land?

Deuteronomy 20:16-18

Why were Canaanites still living in the region of Tyre and Sidon?

Judges 1:31-32 (2:1-3)

How were Jews to deal with these Canaanite neighbors?

Joshua 23:7

A Messiah's Work is Never Done (*Mark 7:24-26*)

How hidden was Jesus able to keep Himself and his disciples for this time of teaching?

Mark 7:24-26a

How could this Gentile woman have known about Jesus?

Mark 3:8

Why did this woman come looking so hard for Jesus?

Mark 7:26b

What kinds of problems could this woman have had with her possessed daughter?

Mark 9:17-18

Mark 5:2-5

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Waiting in Silence (*Matthew 15:22-23a*)

How did Jesus reply to this woman's cries?

Matthew 15:22-23a

Why didn't Jesus just simply turn around and grant the woman's request?

Matthew 9:1-2

Why did Jesus need to see her faith?

Matthew 13:58

What did Jesus credit whenever He healed someone?

Matthew 9:22

Luther: *Christ drives her faith (so) deep into her heart that it becomes strong and firm. Is this the gracious and friendly Lord? He is silent as a stone.*

The Closed Door? (*Matthew 15:23b-24*)

How did the apostles respond to this woman's pleas?

Matthew 15:23b

How did Jesus seem to further close the door on this woman's request?

Matthew 15:24

Was Jesus really sent to the Jews rather than the entire world?

Matthew 10:5-6

Does this mean that God is God of the Jews only?

Romans 3:29-30

So why did Jesus say He came for the Jews?

Romans 1:16

Being sent to the Jews first, how did they receive Him?

John 1:11

Who did receive Him?

John 1:12-13

Why was Jesus sent to the Jews first?

Romans 15:8-9

How early had God told the Jews they would be the path of His grace to Gentiles?

Genesis 12:1-3

I will bless you ... you will be a blessing ... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

How did Gentiles become blessed by the promise to Abraham when Jesus died and rose?

Galatians 3:7-9

Persistence (*Matthew 15:25*)

After Jesus' reply, did she accept her position as woman and Canaanite and leave Jesus alone?

Matthew 15:25

Why would this woman be so persistent?

Ephesians 2:12-13

Should we keep bugging God with our requests or just ask once and leave it in His hands?

Luke 18:1-7

How are we able to persevere and persist even when things look hopeless as for this woman?

Hebrews 11:26-27

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Going to the Dogs (*Mark 7:27-28*)

How did Jesus reply to the woman's plea?

Mark 7:27

Who were the *children* that Jesus referred to?

Romans 8:16

Who were the dogs?

Revelation 22:15

The word Jesus used for dog referred to pet lap-dogs, not scavenging street dogs

Kittel: *Probably chosen by Jesus to show that there is a distinction between Jews and Gentiles, but to still give the Gentiles a place in the house*

How did the woman reply to Jesus' explanation of why He shouldn't help her?

Mark 7:28

People ate with their hands, wiped their hands on bread and threw it to the dogs

What was the woman saying about her understanding of how the Messiah could save her?

John 4:22

Great Faith (*Mark 7:29-30*)

How did Jesus respond after the woman showed she was seeking Him out of faith?

Matthew 15:28

Did the woman believe that Jesus had healed her daughter as He said?

Mark 7:30

What one other person did Jesus commend for having *great faith*?

Matthew 8:5-8, 10, 13

How does God deal with those who know Him and trust in Him?

Psalms 9:10

What does Jesus promise to those who know and have faith in Him?

John 14:13-14

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. What traditions have I put before God?
(*Matthew 15:1-9; 1 Samuel 10:8; 13:7-14; Isaiah 1:11-20; Hosea 6:6; Amos 5:21-27*)
2. How have I been unclean before God this past week?
(*Matthew 15:17-20; 12:33-35; Romans 8:1-17; Galatians 5:16-25; 6:8; James 3:5-6, 13-18*)
3. When have I been slow to understand God's truths?
(*Matthew 15:15-16; 16:19; John 16:12-15; 1 Cor. 3:1-2; Ephesians 1:9-10; 3:2-6; Hebrews 5:11-14*)
4. Do I persist in taking my cares to God or do I give up too quickly?
(*Matthew 15:22-28; 11:28-30; Luke 11:1-13; 18:1-7; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thess. 2:13; 3:10; 5:17, 25*)
5. Does God consider me to be one of His children or just a dog?
(*Matthew 15:26-27; 7:6; Deuteronomy 14:1-2; John 1:11-13; Romans 8:13-17; Philippians 3:2; 1 John 3:1-2; Revelation 22:15*)