

EQUIPPING DISCIPLES FOR KINGDOM GROWTH
Mark Series: *Let the Gospel Tell the Gospel*

JESUS REALLY IS THE JEW AND WE REALLY MUST BECOME AS LITTLE DOGS

Being God's people tests the heart but brings rejoicing as we share in hearts, ears & tongues set free!

Covenant Presbyterian Church

MARK 7:24-37

30 December A.D. 2012



"Oh great and powerful Oz, Toto and I want to return home, the Scarecrow wants a brain, the Tin Man wants a heart, the Lion wants courage, and the Pastor wants a stable church in a small town with a supportive but not smothering congregation."

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Mark 7:1-23 Jesus is too Jewish even for his fellow Jews, demanding the law's purpose be fulfilled.

It's not easy being the people of God—and we too often respond by becoming the gods of the people.

All foods are clean—this foreshadows all peoples are clean—but the reigning religious always have to make some group into outsiders...

William Norman Ewer, a British journalist, wrote: "How odd of God to choose the Jews."

To which Leo Rosten responded: *Not odd/ of God./ Goyim/ Annoy 'im.*

Leaders who aren't striving to be servants of the flock are always serving human kingdoms

Joe/Tim: Jesus is not first and foremost concerned about outward behaviors.

We center the kingdom about outward things because then we can seek to control the people and the things around us.

We often want to create a human kingdom because leading and serving Christ's kingdom can get you hurt a lot.

Teresa of Avila, *Father you'd have more friends if you treated the ones you have a little better.*

Morgan Godwyn, a graduate of Oxford University, came to Virginia around 1665 and served parishes there and on the island of Barbados. He met resistance from slave owners when he tried to encourage the conversion of the slaves. He wrote that they commonly protested: "What, such as they? What, those black Dogs be made Christians? What, shall they be like us?"

Garland. "Contemporary Significance" In *The NIV Application Commentary: Mark*. By Garland, 295. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, © 1996.

Bernard of Clairvaux said:

It is only when humility warrants it that great graces can be obtained. ... And so when you perceive that you are being humiliated, look on it as the sign of a sure guarantee that grace is on the way. Just as the heart is puffed up with pride before its destruction, so it is humiliated before being honored.

D.L. Moody: *God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves.*

Mark 7:24-30 Because Jesus is the fulfillment of Israel we must become as humble and hungry for him as little dogs are for the scraps from the children's table.

Matthew 15:21 Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and *began* to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed." ²³ But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, "Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us." ²⁴ But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and *began* to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" ²⁶ And He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ But she said, "Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once. NASB

Jesus, being Jesus, will sometimes seem rude to all but the most humble.

Woman, gentile, Tyre (Syrophenecian enemies), daughter, unclean spirit: Unclean, unclean, unclean...

Whereas the Jewish leaders were satisfied with outward compliance while Jesus pushes his followers to deal with the heart, this Gentile woman pushes to the heart of the Gospel—the gift of word and sacrament to the Jews was to be the blessing of the Gentiles—not because of any worthiness, but because of the generosity of the heart of God! The fledgling disciples and we are so often still among those who do not hear the parable from the inside; she hears and owns both the Jewish priority AND the Kingdom objective. [Tim Keller: Give me what I *don't* deserve because of *your* goodness.]

Mark 7:31-37 Unless our hearts, ears and tongues are hungry to praise holy Jesus' becoming dirty for our sake, we will not embrace him and share in his joy of touching "the unclean."

Jesus is God come among his people. He does what God does and will do; he creates and recreates doing all things well!

Exodus 4:11 The Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?"

Isaiah 35 ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. ESV

Mark 7 They were utterly astonished, saying, "He has done all things well; He makes even the deaf to hear..."

Genesis 1 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.