



**Week of September 9, 2018**

**Mark 7:24-37**

<sup>24</sup> From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,

<sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.

<sup>26</sup> Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

<sup>27</sup> He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

<sup>28</sup> But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

<sup>29</sup> Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go-- the demon has left your daughter."

<sup>30</sup> So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup> Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.

<sup>32</sup> They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him.

<sup>33</sup> He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.

<sup>34</sup> Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."

<sup>35</sup> And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.

<sup>37</sup> They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."



### Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

### Gathering questions:

- A. There is a Heineken commercial filmed at JFK (you can Google the phrase "Heineken airport roulette") where travelers are offered a chance to spin a wheel and Heineken gives them a free trip to whatever destination it lands on – under the condition that they leave right then, cancelling their original plans, taking only what they packed that day. Would you do it?
- B. How far ahead do you maintain your personal calendar? How full is your calendar *in November*?

### Bible Study Questions:

1. In verse 24, why do you think Jesus "did not want anyone to know he was there"? What lesson do you learn from that?
2. In verse 27, why do you think Jesus used the "dogs" reference? Should he have been more polite?
3. In verse 29 Jesus heals the woman's daughter at a distance; in verse 33 he physically performs the act of healing on the deaf man. Why do you think he did this?
4. In verse 34, the word "sighed" really means "grumbled." When were you faced with a really inconvenient request for help? What did you do?
- 5a. In verse 36, it says "Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it." Why do you think they didn't obey? If Jesus healed you and told you to tell no one, would you obey? Why or why not?
- 5b. What has God done for you that you have failed to tell others about?
6. Where do you think you are an "under-giver", and where do you think you are an "over-giver"? What can you do to address both situations?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about responding to needs that arise and/or maintaining a proper life balance.