

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

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## *Includes*

### **Scripture Passage: Mark 7:25-37**

### **The Point: Jesus breaks down walls to show compassion to all.**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND**

- A. The people of Jesus' day needed to hear the message of good news, just as we need to hear it today.
- B. The Gentiles often felt the sting of rejection from their Jewish neighbors—and vice versa.
- C. Jesus challenged those attitudes of prejudice and hypocrisy with the gospel.
- D. Everyone—Jew and Gentile—can come to Him, call on Him, and be fully included in God's family.
- E. The cities of Tyre and Sidon were hubs of a vibrant seafaring economy and had a history of pagan wickedness.
- F. Jesus and His disciples went the region either because they were invited or to seek a peaceful retreat.

#### **II. THE HUMBLE (Mark 7:25-30)**

- A. Even when Jesus and His disciples traveled to regions outside Galilee for privacy and rest, they often were met by people begging for His help.
- B. In the city of Tyre, Jesus quietly entered a private house, not wanting to attract attention.
- C. Before long, however, His presence in the city became known (v.25).
  - 1. "immediately" = when she heard Jesus was in town she quickly went to Him.
  - 2. The daughter was demon possessed and her mother came boldly to Jesus but with humility.
- D. The woman was not Jewish and from a pagan-worshipping culture (v.26).
  - 1. Jesus' ministry had been to the Jewish people, this may be the first ministry to a Gentile.
  - 2. She kept on begging Jesus to help her daughter.
- E. Jesus' ministry was first to the Jews (v.27).
  - 1. "dogs" = Jews referred to Gentiles as dogs, Jesus uses the term for puppies.
  - 2. He was not insulting her but rather gauging her depth of faith.
- F. She did not protest Jesus' saying but rather accepted and built on it to continue pleading for His help (v.28).
  - 1. "Lord" = her humble submission and recognition that Jesus was more powerful than the evil spirit controlling her daughter.
  - 2. Jesus' primary mission to the Jews did not necessarily exclude Gentiles from submitting to His lordship and receiving His healing mercy.

G. Because of her great faith, Jesus granted her request (v.29).

1. “you may go” = you need to go see what has happened.
2. The demon had been cast out of the girl even before the woman finished speaking to Him.

H. She went home and found her daughter resting from her ordeal (v.30).

### III. **THE OUTSIDER (Mark 7:31-35)**

- A. “again” = connects the two events that highlighted Jesus’ ministry in predominantly Gentile regions which demonstrated Jesus’ compassion for all types of people (v.31).
1. He wanted to avoid another confrontation with the Pharisees in the area ruled by Herod Antipas.
  2. Jesus still sought a time of privacy from the constant crowds that flocked to Him in Galilee.
- B. A group of people that heard or witnessed the miracles of Jesus brought their friend to Jesus (v.32).
1. He was deaf and could not speak clearly which alienated him from his family and community.
  2. Their begging was very intense and ongoing.
- C. Jesus’ healing ministry was not a show designed to wow onlookers and build His popularity (v.33).
- D. Jesus depended on God and cared deeply for the man (v.34).
- E. He was healed completely (v.35).

### IV. **THE EXUBERANT (Mark 7:36-37)**

- A. Jesus wanted them to keep quiet because His mission was not yet finished (v.36).
- B. The people could not keep quiet about such life transforming events.
- C. They were not trying to be disobedient to Jesus. They were simply unable to restrain their astonishment and joy (v.37).
- D. “done everything well” = no one had any complaints.

### V. **CONCLUSION & APPLICATION**

- A. Following Jesus’ example, our compassion should go beyond ethnic and religious barriers.
- B. Following Jesus’ example, our compassion should extend beyond social barriers and include those with physical disabilities.
- C. Jesus’ acts of compassion are so astonishing that we cannot keep them to ourselves.
- D. Teaching Ideas
1. Create Interest
    - a. Ask the group to tell of how someone showed them compassion. After the group shares, ask why compassion is important.
  2. Closing Challenge
    - a. Discuss what your group could do to go beyond the current ethnic, racial, religious, social barriers in your community to minister to others.

E. Don't Forget!!!

1. Includes & Mark 7:25-37
2. Jesus breaks down walls to show compassion to all.

Dr. Smith serves as the lead state missionary with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and leads the Sunday School, Small Groups, Discipleship and Faith Development ministries. Visit their website at [gabaptist.org/groups](http://gabaptist.org/groups) for more information and other resources to aid your class, group or ministry. You can also connect with Dr. Smith at [facebook.com/GABaptistGroups](https://facebook.com/GABaptistGroups). Dr. Smith is available for conferences or other speaking opportunities and can be contacted at [tsmith@gabaptist.org](mailto:tsmith@gabaptist.org).