

Mark 7:24-30 (ESV)

²⁴ And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. ²⁵ But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

1. Who are considered outcasts in our society? In our community?
2. What region are Tyre and Sidon in? Why is this significant?
3. Why do you think Jesus was trying to keep his presence a secret?
4. Verse 26 explicitly tells us the woman was a Gentile. What historical and cultural tensions existed between the Jews and Gentiles?

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5. Does this passage startle you at all? Are you troubled by Jesus' words here? Why or why not?

6. Is it possible that more is going on than meets the eye? What might Jesus want us to learn from this interaction?

7. How is this woman a model of persistent, humble faith?

8. How can boldness and humility both be demonstrated at the same time in our prayers?