

May 13th 2007: Mother's Day: Mark 7: 24-30

There are certain Bible accounts.....can never really comprehend....w/out an understanding of the social context.....culture.....of that time>>>>**The story read**.....Syrophoenician woman

Mark tells us that she was a Greek goes on to say.....**born** in Syrian Phoenicia

The important thing that he wants us to know..... a Gentile....

from a idolatrous region.....that had been a sworn enemy

The next thing to note is that Jesus was a this time in her region

Surprising as it may seem.....Jesus was in Gentile territory

Galilee bordered the Phoenician region.....in the vicinity of the city of Tyre

And Jesus had gone into that area.....not to preach and heal.....**but to hide** away for a time

R & R

Mark 7:24 says.....

To understand why he did this....you only have to read the beginning of Mark 7

He had just experienced argument after argument

A hostile reaction from many in the crowd.....and a complete lack of understanding....rest

Even His disciples.....can't get the drift of what he is saying

• **Jesus is there to get away from the pressure**

To take a break.....To recharge His batteries.....To be incognito for a time

And the disciples understand this.....**They** recognize that if He wants ...away from Jews

Then the despised Gentiles.....are definitely not going to get a look in

• **But there is this one Gentile mother**.....who thinks otherwise

And it is a sign of this mother's desperation.....that she approaches Jesus at all.

Think for a moment....of all the prejudices.....fears.....she had first to overcome before....

For the hatred the Jew had.....was only equaled by the hatred the Gentiles...

She had been raised to despise Jews.....and not to expect anything but contempt....hatred

.....**Most** Gentiles would say....rather die than ask.....

To approach Jesus as she did meantgoing against the wishes of many.....

And taking a huge risk for the sake of her child

The risk of rejection.....total humiliation.....and becoming an outcast amongst.....

Mark tells us that she had heard about Jesus.....She believed that he was able to deal....

But Jesus had never made a secret of the fact

That His mission was to the Jews

The fruit of His Mission following the cross.....would be for all people

And even here in this chapter....He had been preparing His followers for that.....

• **But that message of a Saviour for all**.....For Jew and Gentile.....male and....slave and...

Would be proclaimed by the church.....to all Nations.....**after** the glorification of Christ

Jesus was sent to preach to Israel... to heal & do....and to die for the world.

• **So althou she did not know the full details**.....**she would have realised**.....

That a Jewish miracle worker such as.....was for Jews

And as she approached him that day.....at a house around which some tough men....

For Matthew tells us....that the disciples were the first

And most of them weren't clerical types----(Imagine what they would look like today)

She came in screaming ...Matthew :::Crying out.....making a nuisance

She had to be noticed

She knew that whatever happened next,.....it would be out of her control

WOULD THIS TEACHER.....

• **She was so desperate**

Her little daughter was demon possessed.....

meant that at times.....uncontrollable.....in the grip of an evil force

Fits.....throwing herself into.....being mentally deranged

This Mother had nowhere else to turn

She knew the risks.....but she had go to the point....Nothing 2 loose

• **Jesus' response seems so tough to us**

V27 First let the children eat all they want, He told her, for it is not right to

take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs.

But in her ears.....so much better than she dreaded

- **She heard the word First.....**left the door open for a second
- **She noted that he spoke of the dogs** that were the pets of the children
The dogs allowed around the family

And not of the brutish and stray dogs that prowled the streets

And she realised that in his statement.....left her the chance to reply

And reply she did in v28

but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.

And I sense that at that point....the Lord looked at His disciples.....pain in His heart

And maybe they saw in His expression the thought

I offer my own people the bread....turn from it.....

Yet this one who has no claim....eagerly seeks the crumbs.....scattered on the floor

- **Jesus saw in this unnamed Mother**.....what He desired to see in her....
- Belief in Him.....Perseverance

Matthew tells us that he said to her

Matt 15:28 *Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.*

Mark tells us that she went home....found her daughter....thrown on the bed by the demon

Who had left her.....**completely** healed

What a testimony to the love....faith.....prayers of a mother

And as mentioned.....Participate.....**It is these very 3.....**that God values

- **He wants you to pray for your children your grandchildren**

To pray for their Souls with a passion

And like this mother.....Never give up in your pleading for their souls before God

If you truly love your children....as this mother did

Love them even when they have become a burden.....a source of anxiety.....of fear

Even as this Mother's daughter had become

Then love them into the Kingdom

- **Commit** yourself to Unconditional love on their souls behalf

Do what ever you can to draw them closer to Jesus

Hang on to your Faith on their behalf

Even when it seems that the Lord will not hear.....Persevere as this Mother did

For His timing is perfect....**but** He is also moved by your perseverance

- **And pray.....Pray earnestly.....Pray scarificially**

This mother did.....She even cast herself at His feet.....

And the Lord did hear.....And the Lord did heal.....

Praise His Name & Worship

