

# Everything Well

*Mark 7:24-37*

- This week, we continue our walk through the book of Mark with two different and unique stories.
- Although they happen in different locations and are very different experiences, they demonstrate one truth for us: Jesus does everything well for everyone who will call on him.
- As we mentioned, we have been looking at Mark to get a good idea of who Jesus is. If we are going to be his followers, it is a good idea for us to go back and take a good, hard look at who he is and what he did during his earthly ministry.
- Although he has been mainly ministering in the area near the Sea of Galilee, his ministry is growing out into the regions beyond.
- In fact, both stories today happened outside of his usual area of ministry.
- In the first, we are going to see Jesus make a challenging statement that we will need to examine closely, but he ends up delivering the daughter of a Gentile woman from a demon.
- In the second, Jesus is in another Gentile area and this time heals a man who was deaf and mute.
- As we go over them, though, we will have to agree with the crowds who first heard about these miracles: Jesus does everything well for those who will call on him.
- Let's read the text, and we'll make two observations from it.
- Start with me in **Mark 7:24-37**.
- Jesus does everything well...

## 1) For all people.

- Let's go back to **verses 24-30**.
- Jesus had travelled north, through the area around a town called Sidon, to a city called Tyre.
- It seems Jesus was still trying to take the disciples somewhere they could rest and he could get some additional time with them in a smaller setting.
- However, like every other time he goes somewhere, someone finds out what is going on and comes for help.
  
- Out of those who came to find Jesus, one woman stood out.
- Mark goes to great lengths to point out her background in **verse 26** – She was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician birth.
- Those things might not mean anything to us, but they were incredibly important at the time, both to Jesus and the disciples, and also to the people Mark was writing his gospel for.
- We have mentioned this before, but it is such a crucial truth in the New Testament that you cannot understand a lot of what is happening unless you understand it.
  
- All the way back in the book of Genesis, God set aside a man named Abraham, telling him that he was going to make a great nation out of his descendants, and that all the nations of the world would be blessed through his descendants.
- His descendants became the nation of Israel, the Jews, or the Hebrews—all three point to the same group of people.
- They were the ones to whom God revealed himself in a unique way, giving them his law and causing his presence to dwell with them in a unique way.

- God blessed the nation of Israel with a unique relationship to him, and over time, that special relationship led them to become proud.
- Many had developed the idea that they were the only ones who could be saved, and that God didn't care about the people in other nations or races.
- God had promised that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through Abraham's descendants, though, not just Abraham's descendants.
- He promised that he was going to send someone to be their king, their ruler, and he was going to rule and reign over all the earth, reversing the curse of sin as God's anointed Messiah, or Christ.
- That's what Jesus came to do, and as he did that, he erased the division between Jew and Gentile.
- Here, this woman was a Gentile, or a non-Jew. She wasn't descended from Abraham, so she was outside of that covenant relationship between God and Israel.
- That seems to be what Jesus is highlighting in **verse 27**.
- She isn't a part of that special covenant community, and Jesus came first for them.
- However, in the introduction to his Gospel account, John tells us,
 

*He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.*  
*(John 1:11, CSB)*
- The Jews would go on to reject Jesus, but they hadn't fully done that yet, so Jesus was still primarily reaching out to the Jews.
- The Jews, then, were the children who should have the bread first, and then the Gentiles.

- Jesus' words seem harsh and elitist, but it may have simply been setting the stage for her beautiful response.
  - Look back at that in **verse 28**...
  - She knew she wasn't a part of the old covenant, but she still knew that Jesus cared for her and her daughter and could meet their needs without sacrificing his mission.
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- What happened? Read **verses 29-30** again.
  - Her faith, recognizing that she was fully dependent on Christ like a pet to its owners, moved Jesus to act in her behalf and deliver her daughter.
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- Great. Cool story, bro, but what does that have to do with us?
  - Well, for starters, it is great news for us, because that means we can have just as much of a relationship with God as a full-blooded Jew, something they never thought possible!
  - Right after John said that the Jews rejected Christ, he went on to say this:
 

*But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born, not of natural descent, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12-13, CSB)*
  - That means that anyone, anywhere, at any time, of any background, can have equal standing with God by calling on the name of the Lord!
  - Paul, in the middle of a discussion about God's plan for Israel and the Gentiles, said this:
 

*For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes on him will not be put to shame, since there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord of all richly blesses all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Romans 10:11-13, CSB)*

- So that's important first of all because we couldn't have the same relationship with God we do if this weren't true.
- However, this is even more important in our day in light of recent events.
- Most of you are familiar with the riots taking place in Charlottesville as a number of protestors came out to support white supremacy.
- Some will even try to take passages of Scripture and twist them to say that somehow whites are the privileged people of God and blacks and other minorities are not.
- Let me as clearly and unequivocally as possible tell you, from the authority of the word of God, that there is no place for those kinds of belief in the kingdom of God.
- There is no biblical foundation for racism whatsoever, and if you hold any racist tendencies or leanings, you need to repent and ask God to forgive you.
- Did you hear what God said in **Romans 10**? God blesses all those who will call on him, regardless of race.

*There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:28–29, CSB)*

- The only division that the Bible teaches is between those who have accepted Christ as Lord and those who haven't.
- Al Mohler, president of Southern Seminary, said this:

*"Racial superiority in any form, and white superiority as the central issue of our concern, is a heresy. The separation of human beings into ranks of superiority and inferiority differentiated by skin color is a direct assault upon the doctrine of Creation and an insult to the imago Dei—the image of God in which every human being is made. Racial superiority is also directly subversive of the gospel of Christ,*

*effectively reducing the power of his substitutionary atonement and undermining the faithful preaching of the gospel to all persons and to all nations.”*

- Jesus doesn't just do all things well for white people. In fact, Jesus wasn't white at all, but was a man of middle eastern descent.
- Jesus does everything well for everyone in the entire world, so that everyone who will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.
- In delivering the daughter of a Gentile woman, he showed one more instance of his concern for the entire world.
- In fact, it is likely that the next man healed was also a Gentile, although Mark doesn't say.
- **Through his story, we see that Jesus does everything well for all people...**

## **2) In all ways.**

- Let's turn to the healing of the deaf man who had difficulty speaking.
- It seems this man probably wasn't born deaf but became deaf through an accident or illness, since he had difficulty speaking.
- Read what Jesus did again. Look in **verse 34-35**.
- We don't know the symbolism behind why Jesus healed the man this way. He may have put his fingers in the man's ears to symbolize how his ears were blocked and he couldn't hear, and touched his tongue to show that there was something wrong with it as well.
- As he gave the command, "Be opened," immediately, the man's ears opened and his tongue was loosened and he could speak clearly, as if nothing had ever been wrong.

- In an instant, with one word, Jesus completely reversed the damage that had been done, and he completely healed this man's ears and mouth.
- Can you imagine if Jesus had just fixed whatever was wrong with this man's mouth without healing his ears as well?
- He might have been able to speak better, but he still couldn't hear.
- Jesus does everything well, healing completely what needs to be healed.
- This man's healing is a picture for us of what God does spiritually for everyone he saves.
- He will rebuke the disciples for this later, but we have ears and hear God's Word time and time again, yet we never let it penetrate our hearts.
- You can hear it in the way our culture talks about God. When we make statements like, "Well, my god would never do..." or "All roads lead to God," or any other statement about ultimate reality that doesn't line up with what the Bible says, realize that they are ultimately simply the confused speech from men with deaf ears.
- Just like this man might try to speak in spite of his deafness, his speech was unclear and hard to understand because he couldn't hear.
- What he needed physically, and what we need spiritually, is for Jesus to open our ears and loosen our tongues.
- We need him to show us our sin, have it sink deep into our hearts, and let it lead us to cry out that we have sinned and need a savior!

- That's what our prayer needs to be for those around us: that God will open their ears to truly hear their need for Jesus, so that their mouths can be opened to call on him for salvation and become children of God!

*As Louie Giglio, a pastor in Atlanta has said, "Sin doesn't make you bad, it makes you spiritually dead."*

- Maybe today, for the first time, you are beginning to understand that you need Jesus.
  - Your ears are opening and you recognize for the first time that you can't do this on your own.
  - Listen: Whoever you are, wherever you've been, whatever your race and background, Jesus came to save you.
  - Turning to him is simple, but it isn't easy. You have to give up trying to do things your way and turn to following him. You have to acknowledge that you can't save yourself and ask him to forgive you.
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- Maybe you're here and you haven't been listening. You're saved, and you know it, but you're refusing to listen to what he is saying in a particular area.
  - Maybe God is rooting out a sin in your life, and you don't want to give in.
  - Jesus does everything well. If he is convicting you in an area, then you need to turn to him, simple as that. It is for your good and his glory, even if you don't understand how.
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- As he cast out demons, healed the sick, and did many miracles, the people realized that Jesus did everything well.
  - He was able to reverse the effects of sin and the curse and make things right again.
  - Why? Because as we saw with Jesus walking on the water, he is the same God he has always been.



- In the beginning, when he made the world, he looked at everything he had made and declared it very good.
- Through his ministry, he was reestablishing his authority over creation itself, and drawing the hearts of anyone who will hear and call on him back to himself.
- Will you respond to him today?