

### May 13<sup>th</sup> 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 meant** ....going 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 sacrificially**

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

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

Praise His Name & Worship

