



Life of Christ Series
A Sign of Salvation
Mark 7:24-37

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A couple weeks ago, we looked at Mark chapter 7 verses 1-23 recognizing that Jesus is not against tradition but only against that which abandons Scripture. Jesus gives an example in verse 10, when the Pharisees cancelled the Word of God in order to hand down their own tradition. Christianity was not meant to hold its beliefs in tradition; but in Christ alone. An example to demonstrate tradition that harmonizes with the truth of Scripture is the Nicene Creed. Our goal was to allow the reason for coming to church and living for Christ is not based on tradition, but it is a part of tradition. I hope it is because of a relationship with Christ.

After the Pharisees came to where Jesus and the disciples met, Jesus rose and went further into Gentile territory to the region of Tyre and Sidon, which were two Phoenician cities on the Mediterranean coast, N of Galilee. Jesus did not seek a public ministry in the area. One thing is sure. Jesus' presence can never remain secret for long because his fame has preceded him everywhere. It is likely He wanted time to rest from the pressure of the Jewish leaders and an opportunity to further prepare the disciples for His coming crucifixion and their ministry which reaching the nations. Let us look at the words of Jesus' response to her request and hope to understand the likelihood of Jesus' purpose.

Mark 7:24-30

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. Jesus' FIRST responsibility was to preach the gospel to the children of ISRAEL.
(v 27)

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

Romans 1:16

- Jesus comes as the Messiah of Israel, and she has NO RIGHT as a Gentile to benefit from him.
- There would come a time when Gentiles would be the RECIPIENTS of God's blessings.

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

John 1:12-13

2. The woman ACCEPTS Jesus' Mission of salvation was to come to the GENTILES.
(v 28)

- "The children's BREAD" refers to God's blessings offered to the Jews.
- The "little DOGS" refers to Gentiles having a place in the household of God.
"And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

Matthew 15:26

"Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴ And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Mark 7:31-37

3. Jesus' ACTS of Ministry could not be kept SILENT. (v 32-34)

- The GOSPEL is the VOICE of God's Renewal Plan to be HEARD and SEEN.

Deaf Facts of the International Mission Board (IMB),

- Most of the **70 million** deaf people around the world have never seen Jesus' name signed in their language. Often ignored and oppressed, the deaf are the least evangelized people on Earth.
 - **1,534** Deaf die every day without Christ.
 - There are **189** people groups of the Deaf.
 - Many Deaf have very limited access to formal education.
 - **Sign Roots:** There are over 200 sign languages, but they are connected through sign roots – iconic renderings that make communication possible across varied cultures and languages. (Irish, Guinean, French, British, Korean, Cuban, Afghan)
- The Command to GO and TELL comes after the Resurrection. *(Mark 16:7)*
“But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”
Mark 16:7
 - Therefore, the CHURCH carry's this VOICE to the DEAF world.

God has a renewal for physical deaf people of the world and the spiritually deaf and lost people of the world. The people's words echo **Isaiah 35:5-6** saying *“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy...”* Praise God that he brings salvation to all people of all ethnicity, all race, all gender and all language including sign. We serve a great God!