

**Jesus, Savior of the World**  
**Mark 7:24-30**  
**May 19, 2013**

**Introduction**

Mark's purpose for writing this gospel is to show the Gentiles that salvation extends to the entire world. At the time of writing, the Jews viewed Gentiles as outcasts, as people not able to be saved from God's judgment. The Jews believed that they alone have received the benefits of salvation and eternal life. The Gentiles were without hope. The problem with this view is that God has always intended to save the Gentiles along with the Jews. The Old Testament is full of such references.

*Isaiah 42:6-7* I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, <sup>7</sup>to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.

God has planned to send His Servant, Jesus Christ, to be the Savior of the world, to be the light of the Gentiles, not to the Jews only.

*John 4:42* Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, [16] the Savior of the world."

**1 John 4:14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

Note that even the Samaritans believed Him to be the Savior of the world. For whatever reason, the Jews never picked up on that, instead scorned the Gentiles because they saw them as unclean. They have overlooked what God says in Isaiah:

*Isaiah 45:5-6* I am the Lord, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, <sup>6</sup>That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other.

*Isaiah 49:6* Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'

If Jesus is the Savior to the whole world, then why did Jesus and Paul say that He is sent to the Jews first?

*John 4:22* You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.

*Matthew 10:5-6* These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. <sup>6</sup>But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

*Romans 1:16* For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Israel was never intended to be the end of God's saving plan, but the means to the end. Remember, the foundation of the church is Jewish, starting with the Eleven and Paul. They preach the gospel to the Jews and to the ends of the earth. We need to remember that Jesus came to the Jews first and then He sent the church to the ends of the earth to all peoples, all nations, all tribes, and all languages, so that all will know Christ and Him crucified and come to the saving knowledge and declare Him as Lord.

The passage we have here before us is Mark's vivid explanation that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

*Mark 7:24-30* From there He arose and went to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And He entered a house and wanted no one to know it, but He could not be hidden. <sup>25</sup>For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean

spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet. <sup>26</sup>The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

<sup>27</sup>But Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." <sup>28</sup>And she answered and said to Him, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then He said to her, "For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter." <sup>30</sup>And when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed.

**24** From there He arose and went to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And He entered a house and wanted no one to know it, but He could not be hidden.

- Jesus left the place
  - Capernaum / Galilee area
  - He left because of mounting pressures from religious leaders and Herod Antipas
- To Tyre and Sidon
  - Phoenician cities on the Mediterranean coast—50 miles from Galilee
    - In Lebanon (see map)
  - Jezebel was from this area—wicked and totally pagan

**1 Kings 16:30-32** Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him. <sup>31</sup>And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. <sup>32</sup>Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

- Center of Baal worship and Roman idolatry
- Jesus left and went
  - He begins His private tour with the disciples, away from the crowd
  - See map
- We do not know how long He stayed there in Tyre and Sidon
  - There is no mention of His teaching or healings in these areas
- He entered a house and wanted no one to know it
  - This is a private moments with disciples—to teach and train them
  - This is also a time of rest for Jesus and the disciples (from **Mark 6:31**)
- He could not be hidden
  - He was even well-known in Tyre and Sidon! How?

**Mark 3:8** When they heard all He was doing, many people came to Him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon.

**Luke 6:17** He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of His disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon,

**25** For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet.

- For a woman heard about Him
  - The Father is drawing her to Jesus (**John 6:44**)
  - Somehow, somehow the Father is guiding her to Jesus
- Young daughter with unclean spirit
  - NIV = little daughter
  - Young age (under 12 years old)
  - Awful situation
  - Unclean spirit—doing some immoral stuff (language and action)
- She came and fell at His feet

- She came to Jesus and Him alone
- desperation

**26** *The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.*

- The woman was a Greek
  - Mark emphasizes that she is not Jewish
  - **Matthew** says that she is a Canaanite (**15:22**)
  - This woman has many strikes against her because for a Jew—she is unclean
    - She is a woman
    - Canaanite—which is a race cursed by God for destruction

**Deuteronomy 20:16-18** *However, in the cities of the nations the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, do not leave alive anything that breathes. <sup>17</sup>Completely destroy them—the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—as the LORD your God has commanded you. <sup>18</sup>Otherwise, they will teach you to follow all the detestable things they do in worshiping their gods, and you will sin against the LORD your God.*

- Syro-Phoenician—Roman whom the Jews despised
  - Jesus showed this woman complete mercy
- She kept asking Him
  - Implies that Jesus did not answer her (as we will see in a moment)
  - Faith in action because it implies more than one time
  - She has faith in Jesus that He can heal her daughter

**Matthew 15:22-25** *And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." <sup>23</sup>But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." <sup>24</sup>But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." <sup>25</sup>Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"*

- Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David
  - She is asking for mercy—humble because she is broken
  - She recognizes Him as Lord
  - She recognizes Him as the Son of David!
  - She believes by faith
  - She even worships Him (**15:25**)
- She is seizing the kingdom of God
  - Exactly like Jacob wrestling with God
  - She would not take no for an answer and will not let Jesus alone
  - She is refusing to give up
- He answered not a word
  - Why? This seems harsh
  - To demonstrate to the disciples what saving faith looks like!
  - He knows that she is one of His people, His sheep
  - He knows that the Father has drawn her to Him
  - He is not going to reject her

**John 6:37** *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.*

- Disciples wanted to drive her away
  - They sure are insensitive!

- They did not understand the nature of saving faith
- She is humble, broken, persistent—She needs Jesus and will keep calling on Him until He answers

**27** *But Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."*

- Children's bread little dogs
  - This is a parable—an analogy
  - Bread = gospel
  - Children = Israel
  - Dogs = Gentiles
  - Simply put: during a meal, we feed the children first. It is not right that we ignore the children and feed the dogs directly
- Sounds insensitive that Jesus calls this poor woman a dog
  - Not at all! Because He knows her faith, her heart and her response
- Let the children be filled first
  - Jesus was simply giving a priority in His ministry to the Jews first
  - Then the Gentiles will receive the gospel later on

**28** *And she answered and said to Him, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs."*

- Yes Lord
  - She is not offended! She refuses to be offended!
  - She wants Jesus, the object of her faith
  - She even agrees with Him!
  - No defense or resistance to what He said
- Even the little dogs under the table eat from children's crumbs
  - She is witty! Insightful
  - I know that I am not a Jew, but doesn't the benefits of God to the Jews splash on us as well?
  - She understood Israel's purpose better than Israel herself!
- Great faith!

**Matthew 15:28** *Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.*

- Great faith = mega faith in Gk!

**29** *Then He said to her, "For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter."*

- For this saying—for your faith!
  - Jesus sees her true faith!
- Go your way, the demons have gone out
  - Jesus did not even leave the house—such great authority!

**30** *And when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed.*

- Faith rewarded!

## Conclusion

Jesus is the Savior of the world. The woman came to Jesus and sought Him out, refusing to be swayed by the disciples or situations. She wrestles with Jesus and He rewards her! This is what saving faith looks like! The woman had persistent faith—humble and falling at Jesus' feet, begging for mercy and never leaving until obtaining mercy. Are you seeking Christ today and falling at His feet?