

The Syrophenician woman

Mark 7: 24-30

Note 1; verse 24:

Our Lord travels towards Tyre and Sidon.

*Mar 7:24 And from thence he arose, **and went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon**, and entered into an house, and would have no man know it: but he could not be hid.*

Location:

Tyre and Sidon were the two main cities of Phoenicia, what we call now Lebanon.

John Gill

*"two principal cities of Phoenicia: **not that he went into these places themselves, but into some places that bordered upon them**; for as he ordered his disciples not to go in the way of the Gentiles, so neither did he himself."*

Q. Why does the NASB delete Sidon from this verse?

The margin in the NASB reads:

“some early manuscripts *add* Sidon”

The NIV notes contradict this:

Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. [Many early manuscripts Tyre and Sidon] He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret.

The so called English Majority Text Version reads:

EMTV

Mar 7:24 From there He arose and He went away into the region of Tyre and Sidon. And having entered into a house, He wanted no one to know it, but He was not able to escape notice.

Even:

The NASB in the comparative text in Matt 15:21

Has Tyre and Sidon.

So why delete?

Remember: Every word of God is pure!!!

Note 2;

Our Lord’s desire for rest and privacy

Verse 24b

and entered into an house, and would have no man know it: but he could not be hid.

Barnes:

To avoid the designs of the Pharisees he wished to be retired.

Consider:

It is one of the noticeable features of our Lord's ministry that he constantly sought to avoid unnecessary public attention.

I like the way one version puts the comparative verse in Matthew:

*Mat 15:21 And Jesus went away from there and **withdrew** to the district of Tyre and Sidon.*

App:

Q. Do we follow the example of our Lord in this?

Compare:

*Mar 6:31 And he said unto them, **Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while:** for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.*

Consider:

This takes effort.

Our lives are busy. We need to make time to be
“apart” from the world.

Note 3;

The constant reality of Christ’s ministry.

Verse 24c

“but he could not be hid.”

In fact it was the norm for our Lord to be surrounded
by people to the point where no one could move.

Compare:

The healing of the Paralytic:

(Mar 2:4)

*And when **they could not come nigh unto him for the press**, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay.*

The woman with the issue of blood.

Mark 5: 27-31

His family coming to see him

(Luk 8:19)

Then came to him his mother and his brethren, and could not come at him for the press.

Zacchaeus

(Luk 19:3)

And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

App:

We will never find it easy to commune with Christ in the crowd.

Note 4;

The desperate need of the woman.

Mar 7:25 For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet:

We do not like to see our children suffer with any sickness. Imagine what this was like?

It was her young daughter!

Note 5;

The hopeful knowledge of the woman

*v.25 She:
“heard of him”*

Here was one who had the power to help!

Q. Have we heard?

Note 6;

The accurate recognition of Christ

*V. 25
“and came and fell at his feet”*

She knew who he was!

In Matthew we read:

Mat 15:22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

Consider:

In order for us to receive Christ's help we must recognize who he is!

Compare:

Joh 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

Note 7;

The surprising back-round of the woman.

Mar 7:26 The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

The Jews considered all others "Greeks" or "Gentiles".

She was from what we would call Lebanon today.

Consider:

She knew what many Jews did not!

Compare:

Joh 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

Joh 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Note 8;

The initial refusal of Jesus.

Mar 7:27 But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs.

Compare;

Mat 15:23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

Mat 15:24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Q. How easy are you put off in your seeking for Christ's help?

Note 9;

The amazing response of the woman.

Mar 7:28 And she answered and said unto him, Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs.

Consider:

She not only persisted but she used a wonderful argument in her pursuance of Christ.

Q. do we seek Christ in this manner?

In Matthew after Christ's initial refusal we read:

Mat 15:25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

Mat 15:26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

Mat 15:27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

Consider:

She does not disagree with him but supplies and added argument.

Her need did not cause her to show any disrespect to her Lord.

Note 10;

The gracious reply of Christ

*Mar 7:29 And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; **the devil is gone out of thy daughter.***

Consider also:

The attention that our Lord brings to the woman's words.

“For this saying go thy way”

Compare:

Rom 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

In Matthew:

Mat 15:28a Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.

Note 11;

The wonderful outcome:

Mar 7:30 And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.

In Matthew:

And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Consider:

The girl was healed through the faith of another!

App:

Q. How much faith are we exercising on behalf and for the sake of the salvation of others?

Q. Are we like the Apostle Paul in our desire for the salvation of others?

Rom 9:1 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

Rom 9:2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.

Rom 9:3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

As we close let me read to you this powerful poem

By P.H. Harding

Two little lines I heard one day, Traveling along life's busy way;
Bringing conviction to my heart, And from my mind would not depart;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one, Soon will its fleeting hours be done;
Then, in 'that day' my Lord to meet, And stand before His Judgement seat;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, the still small voice, Gently pleads for a better choice
Bidding me selfish aims to leave, And to God's holy will to cleave;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, a few brief years, Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;
Each with its claims I must fulfill, living for self or in His will;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

When this bright world would tempt me sore, When Satan would a victory
score;
When self would seek to have its way, Then help me Lord with joy to say;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Give me Father, a purpose deep, In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;
Faithful and true what e'er the strife, Pleasing Thee in my daily life;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Oh let my love with fervor burn, And from the world now let me turn;
Living for Thee, and Thee alone, Bringing Thee pleasure on Thy throne;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one, Now let me say, "Thy will be done";
And when at last I'll hear the call, I know I'll say "twas worth it all";
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.