



Finding Faith in Unexpected Places

Mark 7:24 – 8:13

Crossroads April 3, 2011 by Mark Bickel

The Faith of a Syrophenician Woman

Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

“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.” “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “but even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he told her, “For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.” She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

The Healing of a Deaf and Mute Man

Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man.

After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, “*Ephphatha!*” (which means, “Be opened!”). At this, the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. People were overwhelmed with amazement. “He has done everything well,” they said. “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand

During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.” His disciples answered, “But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?” “How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Seven,” they replied.

He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and they did so. They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. About four thousand men were present. And having sent them away, he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.

The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. He sighed deeply and said, “Why does this generation ask for a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, no sign will be given to it.” Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.

Notes:



Upcoming at Crossroads

- **Worship, Teaching and Fellowship** – Sundays at 6:30 pm
- **Sports** – Mondays at 6:00 pm (Indoor Soccer)
- **Bible Study and Prayer** – Thursday at 8:00 pm (I Corinthians 15b)

- **International Student Ministry Planning & Prayer** – Sun. April 10 after church / lunch at church
- **BFC Young Adults Fun Day** – Saturday April 16 at 2:00 pm – Victory Valley

- **Maundy Thursday** – April 21(Special Crossroads Bible Study at 8pm)
- **Good Friday** - April 22 (Grace BFC service at 7pm)
- **Crossroads Easter Celebration – Saturday April 23**
 - **Dinner with International Student** at 6:00pm
 - **Worship Celebration** at 7:00pm
- **Easter Sunday** – April 24 (Grace BFC service at 9am ; NO CROSSROADS)

- **NA Babysitting** – Friday April 29 at 7:15 pm
- **Work Day** – Saturday May 7 at 8:00am - We will be working together on a project for the church
- **Tailgate Party for Crossroads and Grace BFC Youth** – May 18 at 5:15 – Grace BFC
 - **Reilly Concert** – 7pm in the sanctuary – get free ticket to reserve your seat at gracebfc.org
- **BFC Young Adults Retreat** – June 10-12 – Pinebook {new lower cost this year!}
- **Crossroads Summer Missions Trip** – July 23-31 – Samaritan's Purse – See Erik Bellandi

Other Events of Interest

- **Conference on Science and Faith: God & Materialism**
 - April 8-9 at Westminster Seminary (wts.edu)
- **Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology: Children of God – Adopted in the Father's Love**
 - April 29 – May 1 at Tenth Pres. (alliancenet.org)
- **NEXT Conference:**
 - May 28-31 in Orlando (thisisnext.org)

April 10	Not Seeing or Understanding - Mark 8:14-30
April 17	Following Christ to the Cross - Mark 8:31-9:1
April 23	Easter Celebration (Sat. at 7pm, after 6pm dinner)
May	Hot Topics in Christian Life

Find us Online: Gracbfc.org/crossroads

Includes audio/ teaching notes for Sunday talks, Calendar of upcoming events, Photos and Videos, ...