

June 28, 2015 Mark 7:24-37

****PRAYER FOR YOUTH MISSION TEAMS**

O. Intro:

*Some believe that Jesus is a myth (Which is an impossible conclusion based on the available evidence)

*Some believe he was well intentioned, but misguided fellow (again, an impossible conclusion based on the facts of his life and the impact of his life)

*Some think he was nice guy, good religious teacher...taught folks how to get along...his followers took things too far.

*Many of course believe he is the Savior of the world.

*But among all the various views regarding Jesus he is not often thought of as being "brilliant"...the smartest man who ever lived.

*Not just "religious smart"...smarter than the top educator, biologist, physicist, business mind, computer engineer, artist, musician, salesperson, counselor...every form of intelligence you can think of.

*"Jesus always has the best information on everything and of course on the things that matter most in human life." *Willard.

*Here's how the first century church thought of him...

Col. 2:2,3...Christ...in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

*Not just "religious stuff"...All means all here.

*He has the very best information on everything regarding your life and mine...but in addition to brilliant he is also good and powerful.

Mark 7:24 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. 25 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. 26 The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. 27 "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." 28 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." 29 Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." 30 She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

*Jesus had likely become exhausted by his work in the Jewish territory so he went into a house, outside that territory to rest; he wanted to keep his presence a secret...but it didn't work.

*A syrophonecian(mixed race, non-Jewish) women heard he was there and came to him.

*Maybe people found out Jesus was there because the owner of the house was out bragging?

"I'm not supposed to tell anyone, but can trust you...guess who is resting at my house?...Jesus!"

*Because of her proximity to Judea this desperate woman would have known Jewish customs so she would be aware that she has no basis whereby to approach a Jewish rabbi, a holy man like Jesus.

*Let's list the cultural/religious "strikes against her": Phoenician, pagan, woman, has a daughter with an unclean spirit.

*She herself is therefore unclean and unable to approach a rabbi like Jesus...but she doesn't care...desperation can do that for a person.

*She falls on the floor at the feet of Jesus and begs him to exercise a demon from her daughter.

*The verb here is not just "please Jesus" she rather keeps on begging "Please, please, oh please."

*In Matthew's account the disciples become annoyed, or embarrassed by her..."She keeps "crying out" (making a scene)"

*So they urge Jesus to "send her away."

*If you are a parent you understand her boldness born of her desperation.

*She may have normally been a shy, quiet person...but being a parent trumps personality and preference...she was unashamed, indifferent to what people thought of her.

*She doesn't care that the disciples are saying "What is up with this woman?"

*Think about her situation, her little girl was demonized...controlled by some vile, wicked spirit.

*It's hard to imagine a more horrible situation for a parent to be in.

*Why was the little girl subjected to this? Hard to say.

*To reject the existence of demons because of bias or presupposition is not a rational position to hold.

*"What a minute, Terry, most think it is irrational to believe in demons."

*When there is good, solid and ample evidence for the existence of something...it is irrational to disbelieve in it.

*But why a little girl? What could she have done to deserve this?

*Likely nothing...the problem with sin and evil is that they don't just hurt those who deserve it.

*If I sin, especially in some egregious fashion how many people will suffer for it?

-My wife, daughters, grandchildren, friends...on and on.

*"But that's not fair"

- *Fair is not really a key factor in reality..."what is true/real" is what matters in the end.
- *Our ideas of "fairness" can hamper our ability to navigate the real world we live in.
- *God has designed a world of relational connections...we are designed to have impact on each other.
- *This is a wonderful thing...the greatest joys of our lives are relational connections.
- *Our ability to impact each other in deep and meaningful ways in relationship is a wonderful thing.
- *But there is no way to have a world where only positive relational impact is possible...if I can impact you and be impacted by you through our mutual love and good choices.
- *Then of course we can be mutually impacted by one another's sin and bad choices.
- *So this little girl; is likely suffering because of the choices that some adult in her life made.
- *Choices to involve the family or even her directly in some activity that invited demons into her body.
- *Her background could have easily led to this happening...the region and religion she was likely a part of.
- *Doesn't mean her family was overt and intentional demon worshippers...likely they didn't know the pagan gods they worshipped and activities of that worship were causing this great harm.
- *The sobering thing here...for all of us...and in particular for parents...is that what we do or don't do has direct impact on our children and our children's children.
- *"Terry this makes me scared"...Okay, as parents we probably good reason to feel that way, the stakes are very, very high.
- *"Terry this makes me feel guilty"...If you are guilty, if your sin has impacted your children, I have good news...you can confess your sin and Jesus will remove your guilt.
- *In regards to your ongoing sorrow...if your past sins have caused ongoing trouble in your children's lives...you must continually take that sorrow to Jesus...over and over.
- *The guilt he removes in an instant...the emotion of sorrow, we normally have to continually take that to him.
- *The best application of this reality is simple this..."Recognize that you are highly, highly incentivized to live a life of holiness."
- *What you do, impacts your kids...this should motivate you in unique and powerful ways.
- *I have a friend whose children are grown now, but when they were small he was out for a jog...

- *As he ran down a road he glanced down and saw a pornographic magazine open on the street...he reached his turn around point and considered running back by the magazine to get a second look.
- *Instead he crossed the road and changed his route...his motivation at that **moment** was not necessarily love for God, or hunger for righteousness.
- *It was this "I want to be able to love, lead, and pray effectively for my children...Its just not worth it."
- *In frontline combat it is never the higher, more principled, esoteric values that keep a soldier in the fight or drive them to make courageous sacrifices...
- *It is never "love for democracy, or freedom" it is always "Concern for the person in the fight with you" in the middle of the fight itself.
- *Those higher principles may impact the decision to enlist and train and stay in the service...but in the middle of the actual fight...it is almost always about the real person who will be impacted by your choices.
- *"Terry, I am not a parent, this motivation is not there for me."
- *God puts people in churches, bodies...trust me, you have kids that you should be concerned about...they are upstairs, down the hall...and some are teens are in this room.
- *Let's move on.
- *This woman is on the floor begging for her daughter and what does Jesus say to her?
- “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.”**
- *This sounds like he is insulting her.
- *We live in a dog-loving society but most dogs at this time were scavengers...dirty, diseased, and dangerous...they did not love dogs so much...at least the rank and file folks didn't.
- *Today its sort of a friendly insult..."Too bad, I ate the last piece of cake."
- *"Ah, you dog."
- *But to call someone a dog back then was a terrible insult...a Gentile was a "dog" to a Jew...unclean...this may have been considered a racial slur.
- *But what Jesus says here is not an insult its a parable...he is teaching and watch...she will understand.
- *Jesus uses an unusual word for "dog" here...he doesn't use the normal word, but instead he uses a form that means a small/domesticated dog...a house puppy.
- *This woman would have known the difference in words, and she got his point.

*He's telling a story, "You know how families eat, the children at the table first, then they feed their pets...but of course the puppies don't eat off the table before the children do."

*Matthew gives a bit more explanation of what Jesus is saying: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel"

*Jesus concentrated his ministry on Israel...as we have talked about at length...he was the one the signs and the OT ceremony pointed to...he was the fulfillment of the ages.

*He did, demonstrate compassion and concern for non-Jews...but his ministry focused on Jewish people because of his larger purpose.

*He was the one the entire course of human history has pointed towards...God choose a people to represent him in the world among the nations...now God himself has come to the nations in Jesus...first to the Jew then the Gentile.

*History was unfolding in front of them...after his resurrection Jesus would commission his disciples to take the good news to every ethnicity...and they did.

*Jesus is using this opportunity to teach (as always)...he was not just "doing stuff"...that would be good, but not have the lasting impact he came for.

*He was "doing stuff" with intent, purpose...and he was continually connecting the dots between **what** he did and **why** he did it.

*By the way, another key parental lesson there...assume your children will **not** be able to connect the dots between your purposes and your actions.

*First...make sure there is a real connection between your purposes and your actions.

*Do what you do on purpose..."have a clear 'why' in your 'what'"

*Second...without being heavy-handed, and overly preachy...look for opportunity to tell them "why" you did or didn't do a particular "what."

*Learning obedience, even without knowing the "why" is important...

*But in addition it is important that your children learn to **"own" the "why" not just "obey" the "what."**

*Jesus was a master at this...he used parables to help drive home the lessons of what he was doing.

*Her reply to Jesus was priceless.

"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.

*She doesn't become disrespectful...or offended...she simply says in essence...

*"I get it...I'm not part of Israel, I was not born into the chosen race...so feed the kids first, no problem...but I believe there is plenty of food to go around...I'll take the crumbs, they will be sufficient for my needs."

*She is not doing what is nearly universally done today...take offense, stand on my inherent rights, complain about the lack of fairness...maybe she could have threatened to "sue Jesus"

*Instead in a very bold, but respectful way...she exercises faith..."Give me what I do not deserve based on my great need...you have enough grace to go around."

*Jesus responds with "Good answer!"...go on home, your needs have been met.

*She seems to be the first person in the book of Mark to understand a parable of Jesus.

*Last week he told his boys "Are you still so dull? You can't even figure out this parable and its not that complex."

*Here this woman...gets it...and as a result she gets this response from Jesus "Right on!...right answer!"

*His own protégées...had yet to hear that from him.

*She doesn't fight back for her own righteousness...

*"How dare you call me a dog! I won't stand for it. You smug, self-righteous Rabbis...this is why we don't trust you religious people...you think you are better than us, well your not!"

*She says, I'll paraphrase..."I get it, there is an order to things...I don't know why God choose Israel(he has good reason, I'm sure) or why in his purposes I am who I am, where I am...I accept the fact that I have no right to demand anything from you...just like the puppy has no rights..."

*"But even the puppy in a good home, gets fed, still gets taken care of...I'll accept I'm the puppy...I'll take the care given a puppy in good home."

*She reminds me bit of the prodigal son.

*Unlike this woman, he was a family member, he had every right and privilege...he sat at the table.

*But he choose to throw away his inheritance...finally in desperation, living in squalor, experiencing the destruction of his own choices...he determined to return home, but not to demand his rights as a son...but to beg for the care given to a servant in that good home.

*When he encountered his father, who was watching for his return...he said "I'm not worthy to be your son, would you allow me to be a servant in your great home?"

*He had seen what the world had to offer...and a servant in his father's house, was better than anything, anywhere else.

*His father's response was, of course, to throw a party, to welcome home a full son.

*This woman, in her non-demanding response...revealed that she understood the gospel...she had no right, no place from which to demand anything from Jesus.

*And Jesus, in his response to her...revealed that she was not merely a puppy in his house...she too had a place, as his child, at his table.

*Let's go on...

31 Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. 32 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. 33 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. 34 He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha! (epatha)" (which means, "Be opened!"). 35 At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. 36 Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. 37 People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

*Next, Jesus is encountered by a deaf man and mute man.

*Watch how Jesus deals with this man in such a tender fashion.

*He took him aside, away from the crowd...the man was likely insecure...he would have been considered a person of little value.

*He was probably very self-conscious about his own limitations...Jesus took him aside so he would not feel like a spectacle.

*Then Jesus used a number of physical actions along with his power.

*Why, in this narrative does he do two things that are so unusual for him?

1. Put his fingers in the man's ears
2. Places his spittle on the man's tongue

*Clearly in order to bless this man...meet his need to understand.

*The man couldn't hear...so Jesus uses, essentially, sign language...

1. Touched his ears...I'm healing your hearing
2. Touches his mouth...I'm healing your speaking

*Mark uses a very rare word to describe this man, it's a single word that is translated "hardly able to speak."

*The only other time its used in the Bible is a Hebrew word that means the same thing, its in Is. 35:6 "the mute tongue will shout for joy."

*Let's read the larger context:

Is. 35:1 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, 2 it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. 3 Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; 4 say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." 5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. 6 Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

*This is a messianic passage, pointing forward to the coming of Jesus.

*Deserts will bloom...its great visualization of the impact of the gospel on hearts, families, and communities.

*Feeble hands, weak knees...symbols of impotence, and fear...will be strong and courageous through the gospel.

*Mute tongues will shout for joy...like this man Jesus heals in this narrative.

*Isaiah said that God will come...and he will come with vengeance, with divine retribution he will save you.

*Then the blind will see, the deaf hear, the lame leap, and the mute tongue...shout.

*All this is happening in the life and ministry of Jesus...with one seeming exception.

*He will save you with "divine retribution."

*Did that happen? Did Jesus bring divine retribution in his ministry?

*Yes, but in a surprising way...he saved us by "taking on divine retribution."

*Later on Isaiah will state this clearly himself:

Is. 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

2 Cor. 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*Jesus in his first advent, did not come to bring divine retribution to us, but to bear it for us.

CONCLUSION:

*In the course of our message this morning, I've pointed out some "side" or "secondary" lessons we can learn from the life and ministry of Jesus.

*But those side points...though valid...are not THE point.

*Jesus was not a universal problem solver...he didn't solve the problem of poverty (said the poor will always be around), or social injustice (in fact social injustice was perpetrated on him), or physical disease and death (he healed a tiny fraction of the sick and they all, died in the end), didn't end war, divorce, or lack of education.

*His life and ministry were not mainly a series of "how to lessons."

*How to get along with others, parent, be successful at work, be a godly athlete, avoid temptation, be a leader, etc.

*Jesus was not merely a challenging role model.

*He had a very specific ministry, a precise calling...a vocation to complete.

*His miracles and his movements were not random they pointed to his purpose.

*His remarks to the non-Jewish woman...were veiled but accurate...he didn't come to randomly help a bunch of people in temporary fashion.

*He didn't start a series of medical clinics, or counseling centers, or schools.

*He came to complete a very specific mission...he was the long awaited Messiah...but not the one they had envisioned.

*He did not restore Israel's national fortunes, he didn't immediately end the suffering of the righteous and vanquish the wicked.

*His movements and miracles validated his message...he was the Savior of the world.

*His death on the cross was a death for us.

*His primary mission what to accomplish what to many people seems barbaric, a primitive viewpoint...out of place in the modern world.

*But in fact, the Cross of Christ has also been out of place in whatever the current worldview happens to be.

*The world today is always the "modern" world...which means it is always passing into the non-modern or primitive world.

*Here's what Paul wrote a couple thousand years ago, about a then "modern worldview"

1Cor. 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

*The place we exist on the calendar has nothing to do with what is true and not true...truth stands apart from chronology.

*The Bible, God, Jesus, life itself becomes confusing when we fail to understand why he came.

*He was the most brilliant person who has ever lived...but he did not come to solve all of our problems, as they stand:

"If I trust Jesus he will fix my marriage, my health, my habits, my past, my future, my debt, my unpleasant job, and my kids."

*Then when those problems persist...people become disillusioned...what good is he if he doesn't touch me where I really need him.

*Sure there are secondary applications from the life and ministry of Jesus...he was the smartest person who ever lived so it would make sense to try to make as many connections as possible between his actions and attitudes and our own .

*However, the prime application of his life and ministry is that he came to solve our greatest problem, to meet our deepest need.

*He bore our sins (which wasn't fair) so that we could bear his righteousness (also, not fair).

*That doesn't mean he left all the other issues of our lives untouched.

*A life aligned with faith in Christ will inevitable lead to: changed marriages, children, workplaces, social settings, physical bodies and the like.

*In addition what Christ did not do himself...he compels and empowers his people to do.

*Many followers of Christ have started hospitals, schools, given their lives to stop social injustice, take care of orphans.

*In fact much of what has been done in history along these lines has been done by those motivated by love for Christ.

*But this was made possible because Jesus did what he came to do...to purchase us for God.

*Of course it would have been compassionate if had spent every waking moment he had on earth, healing physical disease...it just wouldn't have been wise...and he is really wise.

*He could have determined..."I think I'll try to get along with the government and Jews and forgo the cross...with my healthy lifestyle, influence, not to mention...I'm deity...I should be able to live at least another 50 years in this body...I could do a lot of good in that much time."

*In that much time he could have started lots of social programs, healed tens of thousands of people, started a Palestinian network of "Jesus of Nazareth medical or counseling Clinics".

*But instead, he allowed himself to be killed at around age 33...and in so doing he accomplished his purpose to meet our greatest need.

***Rev. 5:9 And they sang a new song:...you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.**

*His mission and impact transcended the first half of the first century...it goes to end of the earth to the end of time and beyond.

*Our calling is similar...sure we have pressing issues and needs to attend to.

*But our overall life purpose must be about more than paying attention to the next pressing issue and need.

*In his name we will seek to have good marriages, relationships, make a difference in the communities where he has placed us, turn around social injustice when we can...all that he calls us individually and corporately to do...

*But our purpose, like his...is transcendent...it is lived out in space and time...but it is eternal in its purpose and its ultimate application.

*So...we are able to find joy in being found faithful...even when his plan works out differently for each of us.

*Work with the sick and yet they still die, work with one orphan and ten more are created by human sin, build a good marriage and a spouse dies.

*Yet, we never have to experience vanity in any of this.

*Vanity means in the end what we do doesn't really matter...so it doesn't matter what we do.

*What we know from the gospel...is we have been rescued from vanity, forever.

1Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

PRAYER

SMALL GROUP NOTES

June 28, 2015

Intro:

1. Why do you think many (most?) people would not use "smart" or "brilliant" as words to describe Jesus?
2. How has this lack of connection between "brilliance" in the "real world of people and things" and the life and teachings of Jesus impacted how people tend to see the relevance of Jesus to their daily lives?
3. Jesus is often seen as being "other than brilliant" and at the same time a sort of "self-help guru." Many believe he came primarily to help us with our daily life issues. Does this align with the message of the gospel? Why or why not?

Read:

Mark 7:24 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. **25** 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. **26** The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. **27** "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." **28** "Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." **29** Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." **30** She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. **31** Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. **32** 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. **33** 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. **34** He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "*Ephphatha!* (epatha)" (which means, "Be opened!"). **35** At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. **36** Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. **37** People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Discuss:

1. Jesus' response seems cruel at first, but since this is a parable not a racial slur what is it that Jesus is trying to show this woman?
2. How does the woman's response reveal that she "gets it?"
3. What is it that she "gets?"
4. On a side note: Discuss how our choices impact those around us, good and bad.

5. What are some ways in which her response to Jesus is similar to the response of the prodigal son when he returned home?

6. Jesus showed great kindness (and wisdom) in dealing with the deaf man. What are some ways you can see these things expressed?

7. What are some ways you see the prophecy from Isaiah fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus?

Is. 35:1 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, 2 it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. 3 Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; 4 say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." 5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. 6 Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

8. How did Jesus fulfill Is. 35:4 in his life and ministry?

Is. 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

2 Cor. 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

9. Talk about some of the things Jesus **did not do** in his life and ministry?

10. Many (most) of the things he could have done but didn't have been done by his followers. How is it that Jesus doing what he did is what has made possible all that his followers have done?

11. On a side note: Why is it so important to connect the "Why" to "What" in our lives?

*Does this mean we have to have a "why" in order to obey a "what?"

Apply:

*There tends to be two approaches that are common in coming to God:

1. A deficient perspective on our own great need.

2. My deficient perspective on his God's great provision.

*Think through how you might have struggled in one or both of these areas.

*Pray alone, or with a partner: confessing your need for Jesus and thanking him for his grace and provision.

Thinking ahead: Is there something that God's grace in your life may be empowering you to accomplish or attempt in the coming days? How does he want to do through you what he wants done in the world immediately around you?

THE GOSPEL OF

MARK



Mark 7:24-37

**“FOR EVEN THE
SON OF MAN
DID NOT COME
TO BE SERVED,
BUT TO SERVE,
AND TO GIVE
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MARK 10:45

J. STILL

Mark 7:24-30 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.

There is no way to have the possibility of a positive relational impact without the possibility of having a negative one.

**“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.”**

***owning the why,
not just obeying the what***

“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.

Mark 7:31-37 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."

"Sign Language"

- 1. Touched his ears***
- 2. Touched his mouth***

Is. 35:1-6 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Is. 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

2 Cor. 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

***Jesus was not the universal problem
solver***

**1 Cor. 1:18 For the message of the cross
is foolishness to those who are
perishing, but to us who are being saved
it is the power of God.**

***He bore our sins (which wasn't "fair") so
that we could bear his righteousness
(also, not "fair")***

**Rev. 5:9 And they sang a new song:
“You are worthy to take the scroll and to
open its seals, because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased men
for God from every tribe and language
and people and nation.**

1 Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.