



Dogs and Kids

By Taylor Braswell on May 18, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Mark 7

In Mark 7:25-30, Jesus tests a woman's faith in a way that makes some people uncomfortable. I once saw a viral video of someone claiming this passage of scripture is racist. If you just breeze by these verses quickly, you may think Jesus was mean or disrespectful to this woman. Grab your scuba gear because we are taking a deep dive into this passage!

First, this woman was a Gentile from what is now modern-day Lebanon. This woman knew it was socially unacceptable for her to even approach Jesus and talk to Him. When most Jewish men would have ignored this woman, Jesus engages in conversation with her. This woman comes to Jesus humbly at His feet. Second, when Jesus says, "let the children be fed first" he is talking about ministering to Israel before ministering to the Gentiles. Romans 1:16 says, "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.*" Jesus' statement is a parable! The bread is His message, children are Israel and dogs are the Gentiles. Some scholars believe the word used for *dogs* here can be translated as *puppies*. Either way, think of your household dog begging for food while you eat at the table.

My dog, Jack, does not deserve the food I am eating, and he has his own dog food. But every meal, Jack puts his head on my lap hoping I will give him a piece of food. Autumn and I had some friends over recently who have a one-year-old. When a one-year-old eats, they drop food and Jack gets to eat it off the ground. *Jesus heals this woman's daughter because she understood that she was a sinner, underserving of a seat at God's table!* You and I are like dogs (sinners), who should not be able to sit at the table like a child (believer) of the family does. Thanks be to God who graciously offers us a seat at His table through the blood of Christ! We must see ourselves as dogs before we can become children of God.

PRAYER: Father, thank You for showing me grace and mercy even while I rebel against You. Help me see myself as a sinner, only seen as righteous through what Jesus has done for me.

TOMORROW'S READING: Mark 8

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