



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 112 - He Sure Has a Way with People (Mark 7:24-37)

Who Would Call a Woman a "Dog"?

In this incident we see something we wouldn't expect from Jesus; He is uncharacteristically harsh. When this desperate mother begs Him to cast out the demon, He calls her a "dog."

- Why do you think Jesus treated her so harshly?
- Describe a situation where it felt like God was ignoring your prayers for help.
- How might pride have turned the woman away from the help only Jesus could give?
- How has your pride prevented you from relationships and benefits you otherwise could have enjoyed?
- Describe a time you humbled yourself and received a great benefit.

Even though calling the woman a "dog" was a humiliating insult, Jesus left the door open a crack by using a particular form of the word. He used a Greek form that referred to a pet—as in a family dog—rather than a wild dog wandering the streets.

- How would His reference to the family pet open the door and give the woman reassurance that Jesus truly wants to heal her daughter?
- When you are going through difficult struggles, what kinds of reassurance has God offered you?
- How much reassurance do you need when you're going through difficult times?

The Gentile mother humbles herself and accepts the position of a family dog because at least the family dog is still part of the family. She willingly accepts the crumbs that fall from the family's table. Jesus rewards her unwavering faith by healing her daughter.

- What things make it difficult for you to have the confidence to lay claim to the promises God the Father has given you in Jesus Christ?
- Describe a time you or someone you know has found great comfort by clinging to God's promises in unwavering faith.

Why Is He Sticking His Fingers There!

First He calls a woman a dog; now He sticks His fingers into a deaf man's ears! Of course Jesus wasn't making fun of the deaf man, He was using a kind of crude sign language to let him know He is about to heal him.

1. Putting His fingers in his ears tells him he is going to be able to hear.
 2. Spitting and touching his tongue shows he will speak clearly.
 3. Looking up to heaven shows God is about to heal him.
 4. Sighing was a visual show of emotion; it shows the deaf man how much Jesus cares.
- Why would Jesus take the time and trouble to do this instead of heal him immediately?
 - How is this similar to the way He stopped to find the woman who was healed from bleeding when she touched His garments from behind?
 - What reassurance do you take for your own struggles from Jesus caring enough to communicate the healing that's about to take place in a way this man will understand?