

# Mark

## Lesson 11 Chapter 7-8

### Leader Guide

Leader Guide Bible Studies

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# On the Road with Jesus, Healing, Mission, and Repetition

## Lesson 11, Mark 7-8

### Prayers

#### Introduction

Mark 7 begins with more conflict with the Pharisees. The Pharisees asked Jesus why his disciples didn't wash their hands before eating and live according to the elders' traditions.

Jesus told them they did not honor God by not honoring their father and mother because of the excessive tithes and offerings they took from people. Then he said to them it wasn't dirty hands that made a person clean or unclean, it was what came out of their heart: <sup>Mk 7:21</sup> **For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery,** <sup>Mk 7:22</sup> **greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.**

The primary focus of Mark 7 and 8 is a focus on how Jesus fulfilled the prophetic Messianic healing of the blind, deaf, lame and mute found in Isaiah:

<sup>Isa 35:4</sup> 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."

<sup>Isa 35:5</sup> Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

<sup>Isa 35:6</sup> Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.

After the conflict with the Pharisees, Jesus and his disciples left Capernaum on a 200-mile round trip, first to Tyre and Sidon (in Lebanon) and then to Decapolis (in Jordan). Earlier, Jesus sent out his disciples and gave them the authority to heal. He gave them strict orders to only go to Israel; now, he gave them a preview of their future evangelism of the Gentiles. Jesus' miraculous healing would fulfill the scriptures. His ministry to the Gentiles fulfilled Isaiah 51:4-5 "Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: The law will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. <sup>Isa 51:5</sup> My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations.

#### Read Mk 7:24-30 [additional comments from Matthew 15:21-27]

<sup>Mk 7:24</sup> Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre [and Sidon]. <sup>25</sup> He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret.

<sup>Mk 7:25</sup> 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.

<sup>Mk 7:26</sup> The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter [<sup>Mt 15:22</sup> crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession."

[<sup>Mt 15:23</sup> Jesus did not answer a word. So, his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."]

Mt 15:24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

Mt 15:25 The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

Mk 7:27 "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."

Mk 7:28 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

Mt 15:28 Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted."

Mk 7:29 Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." [Mt

15:27 And her daughter was healed from that very hour.]

Mk 7:30 She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

## Discuss

1. I've always found this account a little strange - Jesus walked 80 miles and ducked into a house in secret. Why would Jesus want to keep his presence a secret in Tyre?

**People from Tyre and Sidon traveled to Capernaum for healing and to listen to Jesus (Mark 3:8). He would have immediately drawn a crowd if the people knew he was there, but he had a divine appointment with a woman in Tyre who needed his attention.**

2. How did the disciples react to the woman with the demon-possessed daughter?

**The disciples wanted Jesus to send her away because she kept crying out for Jesus and the disciples to help her. Just before this trip, Jesus sent his disciples out by themselves to heal disease, cast out demons, and to preach about the kingdom of God. They could have cast out the demon and met the woman's needs, but they failed to have compassion for a foreigner and had not yet learned the lesson of the Good Samaritan.**

3. The second challenging aspect of this story is Jesus' response to the woman. Why would he go 80 miles just to say no to someone who desperately needed his help?

**I think this road trip was to teach the disciples as much as to meet the need of the woman with the demon-possessed daughter. Jesus' questioning compelled her to state her faith in him without wavering.**

4. What did Jesus teach his disciples about Gentiles in Tyre?

**The disciples saw a Gentile woman of great faith. In another year, Jesus would commission the disciples to go to make disciples of all people and nations. Jesus was giving them a preview to show them the hearts of the Gentiles were ready to receive Christ too.**

**More importantly, Jesus was teaching them to have compassion toward others.**

5. The account of the Syrophenician woman reminds me of the parable of the judge and the persistent widow in Luke 18:1-8. What do these illustrations teach you about prayer?

**These accounts teach us the importance of persistence as we present our prayers and petitions to God. We have all experienced God's answer of not now. It's difficult, but it must be essential for us to experience!**

### **The Healing of a Deaf and Mute Man (Found only in Mark)**

Mk 7:31 Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis.

Mk 7:32 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.

Mk 7:33 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.

Mk 7:34 He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "*Ephphatha!*" (which means, "**Be opened!**").

Mk 7:35 At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

Mk 7:36 Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it.

Mk 7:37 People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

6. The healing of the deaf and mute man is the only account of a deaf man in scripture. It fulfills the Messianic prophecies in Isaiah regarding the deaf hearing in the day of the Lord in Isa 29:18, 42:18, and 35:5-6, "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. <sup>6</sup> Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy."

Healings were a powerful testimony that Jesus was the Messiah. When John the Baptist asked Jesus if he was the Messiah, Jesus referred to the healing miracles as the proof:

"Jesus replied, "**Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor** (Matthew 11:4-5)".

This healing has the unusual aspects of Jesus using spit, putting his fingers into the man's ears, and a deep sigh. No one knows why Jesus did these things, but what might his sigh mean?

**Sighs can mean many things; sadness, weariness, grief, or relief. I don't think Jesus was weary of being asked to heal. I think he was reflecting on the state of his creation. In the beginning, his creation was perfect; now, it was broken with pain and suffering. Yet, the Father only has plan A; all creation will be restored. Pain and suffering will vanish, but until then, we are living in the brokenness. Like Jesus, we look to the Father and sigh, "how long, Father?"**

7. Comment on the response of the people to the healing of the deaf and mute man.

The people were amazed and recognized the healing as a good thing – unlike the Pharisees, who attributed Jesus' healing to evil. Perhaps this was the first step in being moved to faith, but they were not there yet.

### Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand

Mk 8:1 During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, <sup>2</sup> “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. <sup>3</sup> If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.”

Mk 8:4 His disciples answered, “But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?”

Mk 8:5 “How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Seven,” they replied.

Mk 8:6 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. <sup>7</sup> They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them.

Mk 8:8 The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>9</sup> About four thousand men were present. And having sent them away, <sup>10</sup> he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.

Mk 8:11 The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven.

Mk 8:12 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.”

Mk 8:13 Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side.

8. What lessons did the disciples need to relearn from the feeding of the five thousand?

**God provides.**

**They needed to have compassion for others.**

**They needed to look to God to provide for others when they could not by their own means.**

### The Healing of a Blind Man at Bethsaida (Found only in Mark)

Mk 8:22 They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him.

Mk 8:23 He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, “Do you see anything?”

Mk 8:24 He looked up and said, “I see people; they look like trees walking around.”

Mk 8:25 Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

Mk 8:26 Jesus sent him home, saying, “Don't go into the village.”

9. The healing of Bethsaida's blind man is the only example of a two-stage healing in the New Testament. No one knows why. A second unusual aspect of the healing is that Jesus used spit in the healing. Again, no one knows why (although there is much speculation)! The others Jesus used spit are the healing of the deaf and mute (Mark 7: 31-37) and the man born blind (John 9:6). There was no prevalent thought at Jesus' time that spit had healing properties. Jesus healed with touch, word, prayer, from a distance – and with spit. What might have resulted if Jesus healed by the same method each time?

**We would all seek the method without seeking the healer!**

### **Closing Prayer (from John Baillie)**

O most loving God, who in the Person of Your Son Jesus Christ did manifest Your love to man by relieving all manner of suffering and healing all manner of disease, grant Your blessing, I pray, the joy of a life surrendered to Christ's service and the peace of sin forgiven through the power of His Cross. Amen.