
The Wide Reach of God's Grace

Mark 7:24-37

And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone... Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak." (ESV)

I. Who's in and who's out?

The Syrophenician woman in this passage is a cultural outsider but we see that God reaches out to the outsider to bring them into his kingdom. *How can you practically be the kind of person who reaches out to those who likely feel like an outsider?*

II. What does it take to be an insider?

The Syrophenician woman becomes an insider, not by proving she belongs but by giving up her rights and placing her faith on Jesus. *How might we be unwilling to give up our rights and how might that keep others from feeling welcomed into our community?*

III. How does God respond to the posture of an insider?

Every single one of us is called to participate in the Great Commission. *What was most impactful for you from the World Missions Conference? Are there any new ways God called you to participate in the Great Commission this past week?*