

Exegetical Notes, Mark 7:24-30

“Sweet, Sweet Crumbs for Thanksgiving”

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen, Cornerstone Fellowship

101 Kylies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-1375

charleshjensen@aol.com

Mark 7:24-30

Verse 24-26

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.

- Tyre is a city in Phoenicia, modern Lebanon. The “vicinity of Tyre” means that he was not actually in that city but near it. The text wants us to understand that Jesus has ventured outside of Israel and into the neighboring Greek state.
- Even here, outside of Israel, news about Jesus has spread. So much so, that he cannot even be alone here. Word of his presence spread.
- A woman, not a Jewess, heard about Jesus and so came to him begging him to drive an evil spirit out of her little girl.

Verse 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.”

- The saying sounds very harsh in our ears. Jesus uses the Greek word that means a dog which is a family pet to refer to this woman. His point is that the Gospel was first sent to the Jews and that it would only become available to non-Jews at the appropriate time. It was not yet time for the Gospel to be offered to the Gentiles.

Verse 28

“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “but even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

- The woman does not react to Jesus' words out of offense, although she might have been offended by them. She simply says that she will be content with the crumbs of mercy, the mercy drops that fall from the table. Her point is that no one objects to the dogs eating the crumbs which fall to the floor.

Verse 29

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.

- Jesus agreed that she could have the mercy drops, the crumbs that fell from the table.
- The woman discovered that even the crumbs overflowed with blessing. The little girl was healed.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Sweet, Sweet Crumbs For Thanksgiving*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen*. They are used here by permission.)