

“JESUS LOVES DOGS”

Mark 7:24-31

Pastor Steve Cavallaro

I. What are dogs in the eyes of faithful Pharisees?

“he ... went away to the region of Tyre”.

“was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth.”

“to the dogs.”

Gentiles were considered _____ & _____ by Pharisees.

1 Samuel 17:43

Philippians 3:2

Revelation 22:15

“In the ancient Jewish world this was a combination of need beneath the dignity of any true rabbi.” -Sinclair Ferguson

II. How did Jesus respond to this dog seeking mercy?

“whose little daughter had an unclean spirit.”

“fell down at his feet” and “begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.”

“Let the children be fed first ...”

“even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs”

“the demon has left your daughter.”

Jesus _____ the dogs looking for _____.

Genesis 12:1-3

Psalms 145:9

Isaiah 42:6-7

Acts 10

Romans 1:16

“As the sacred food was intended for men, but not for the dogs, the Torah was intended to be given to the Chosen People, but not to the Gentiles.” -Hagigah 13a

“She acknowledges that she is undeserving, with no rightful place at the table, but then falls at Jesus’ feet (literally) and asks for mercy.” -Mark Strauss

III. Where do you go when you feel unworthy?

“great is your faith!”

_____ looks to Jesus despite our unworthiness.

Ephesians 2:11-12

“The pride of the flesh must fall down, when we learn that by nature we are dogs.”

-John Calvin

BIG IDEA: Jesus shows mercy to the undeserving.

Comparisons and Contrasts

Mark 7:24-30	Matthew 15:21-28
District of Tyre	District of Tyre and Sidon
A Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth	A Canaanite
Her words not given	“Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David ...”
	Disciples begged Him to send her away
Let the children be fed first For it is not right to throw the children’s bread to dogs	I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel
	“Lord, help me.”
	Not right to throw the children’s bread to dogs
Even the dogs eat children’s crumbs	Even dogs eat the crumbs that fall
“for these words you may go on your way, the demon has left	O woman, great is your faith! Be it done ...