**Crumbs Under the Table**

**By Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Mark 7:24-30**

**Wednesday Evening**

**February 20, 2019**

**24 From there He arose and went to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And He entered a house and wanted no one to know it, but He could not be hidden.**

Saints, Jesus traveled about thirty miles to the region of Tyre and then went to Sidon. These were port cities on the Mediterranean Sea north of Israel. Both cities had flourishing trade and were very wealthy. They were proud, historic Canaanite cities.

In David’s day, Tyre was on friendly terms with Israel:

**2 Samuel 5:11-13**

11 Then Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons. And they built David a house. 12 So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel. 13 And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron. Also more sons and daughters were born to David.

but soon afterward the city became known for its wickedness. Its king even claimed to be God,

**Ezekiel 28:1-2**

1 The word of the LORD came to me again, saying, 2 "Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because your heart is lifted up, And you say, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, In the midst of the seas,' Yet you are a man, and not a god, Though you set your heart as the heart of a god…

Saints, Tyre rejoiced when Jerusalem was destroyed in 586 B.C. because without Israel’s competition, Tyre’s trade and profits would increase.

Jesus and the disciples probably went to this Gentile territory thinking that they would be less well known and thus could obtain privacy and rest time. They went to someone’s house (probably the home of a Jew who lived in that area) and did not want anyone to know they were there. But even in this Gentile territory, he couldn’t keep his presence secret.

**25 For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet. 26 The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.**

Saints, the word of Jesus’ arrival had spread. One woman came to Jesus right away on behalf of her little girl who was possessed by an evil spirit. The woman fell at Jesus’ feet and begged him to release her child from the demon’s control. Mark added that this woman was a Gentile.

**Matthew 4:24**

“News about Him spread all over Syria, and people brought to Him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering acute pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed--and He healed them.”

Saints, Demons, as spirit beings, have the ability to take possession of a physical body. Demonic possession occurs when a person’s body is completely controlled by a demon. This cannot happen to a child of God, since the Holy Spirit resides in the heart of the believer in Christ.

**1 John 4:4**

“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

Jesus, during His earthly ministry, encountered many demons. Of course, none of them were a match for the power of Christ:

**Matthew 8:16**

“Many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word”

Jesus’ authority over the demons was one of the proofs that He was indeed the Son of God.

**Luke 11:20**

“But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

Saints, the demons who encountered Jesus knew who He was, and they feared Him:

**Matthew 8:29**

“‘What do you want with us, Son of God?’ the demons shouted. Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?

Saints, the demons know their end will be one of torment. Satan and his demons now look to destroy the work of God and deceive anyone they can.

**1 Peter 5:8**

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

**2 Corinthians 11:14-15**

14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Saints, the demons are described as:

**Evil spirits**

**Matthew 10:1**

“He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.”

**Unclean spirits**

**Mark 1:27**

“Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him”

**Lying spirits**

**1 Kings 22:23**

"Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has declared disaster against you."

**Angels of Satan**

**Revelation 12:9**

“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

**Satan and his demons deceive the world**

**2 Corinthians 4:4**

“whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”

**Promulgate false doctrine**

**1 Timothy 4:1**

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons”

**Attack Christians**

**2 Corinthians 12:7**

“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.”

**1 Peter 5:8**

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

**Combat the Holy Angels of God**

**Revelation 12:3-10**

4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. 5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. 7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

**27 But Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."**

Saints, Jesus answered her in the language of a parable. Jesus used the word for dogs that referred to household pets. The simple parable meant that the children at the table are fed before the pets; it would not be right to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.

While it is true that in Jewish tradition Gentiles at times were referred to derogatorily as “dogs,” that probably does not apply here. The Greek word used as a derogatory nickname applied to wild dogs or scavenger dogs, not household pets.Jesus’ ministry was first to his own family, the Jews. He would not take away from them to perform miracles for a Gentile. If that was what Jesus meant, we should realize that his words do not contradict the truth that God’s message is for all types of people:

**Psalm 22:27**

“All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You.”

**Isaiah 56:7**

“Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."

**Mark 16:15-18**

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

**Romans 15:9-12**

9 and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles,

And sing to Your name." 10 And again he says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!"

11 And again: "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!" 12 And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope."

Saints, Jesus was simply telling the woman that the Jews were to have the first opportunity to accept him as the Messiah because God wanted them to present the message of salvation to the rest of the world.

Jesus may have wanted to test her faith, or he may have wanted to use the situation as another opportunity to teach that faith is available to all races and nationalities.

**28 And she answered and said to Him, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs."**

Saints, unlike many of Jesus’ Jewish listeners, this woman understood Jesus’ parable. Her answer was wise, for she explained to Jesus, by extending his parable, that the children who love the pets often drop crumbs to them. Not all the Jews accepted Jesus, while some Gentiles chose to follow him.

Why couldn’t she have some of those “leftovers” that the Jews didn’t “eat”? She did not ask for the entire meal, just for a few crumbs—or one crumb in particular—one miracle of healing for her daughter.

Ironically, many Jews would lose God’s spiritual healing because they rejected Jesus, while many Gentiles, whom the Jews rejected, would find salvation because they recognized Jesus.

**29 Then He said to her, "For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter." 30 And when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed.**

Saints, Jesus was delighted by the faith of the woman. He granted her request because of her humility and persistence. Her faith and understanding was in contrast to the misunderstanding of the disciples.

Her request had been made in faith that Jesus could perform the healing. His words had been meant to test her, and she had passed the test. She understood Christ’s lordship and that, as a Gentile, she had no right to request mercy from Jesus. She also willingly accepted his conditions.

On that basis, Jesus healed the woman’s daughter. With his words, the demon left the little girl. This miracle showed that Jesus’ power over demons is so great that he doesn’t need to be present physically, or even to speak any word to the demon, in order to free someone. His power transcends any distance.

Mark selected instances from Jesus’ life to illustrate the many ways the Lord shows compassion for others. Amen

**Let's Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**