

## Seek the Person, Not the Formula

*Mark 7:24-37*

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### I. Jesus went to a pre-judged area. *Mark 7:24-26*

Jesus being fully God as well as fully man is omniscient, (meaning having complete knowledge); so He knows the \_\_\_\_\_ better than we know the present.

1. This woman \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus. (*vs. 25*)

2. Jesus will not hide from a person in need who truly \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

Remember the religious leaders, who had studied scripture all of their lives, simply condemned Jesus over ceremonial washings and would not give Him the \_\_\_\_\_ He deserves.

### II. The test of faith. *Mark 7:27-30*

*"As such, for the present, a Gentile woman had no \_\_\_\_\_ upon Him; and so He answered her not a word."* (H.A. Ironside)

- The Jews considered Gentiles to be **dogs**. In the original language, **dogs** can mean a literal **dog**, \_\_\_\_\_ or abasement.

The woman is saying, *"I understand that Israel must be first, however if You simply use a crumb of Your \_\_\_\_\_, it will be enough to heal my daughter."*

### III. A different way of healing. *Mark 7:31-37*

*"He met them all in grace, and healed every one, thus demonstrating again his Messianic \_\_\_\_\_."* (Ironside)

- This healing was so remarkable that these pagan Gentile people began glorifying the God of Israel; the very thing the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel refused to do on the other side of the Sea.

The Gentiles asked Jesus to put His hand on this man to heal him. We often try to figure out how Jesus could answer our prayers and come up with ways He could use that are \_\_\_\_\_. *Isaiah 55:8-9*

- Jesus took the man aside privately in order to communicate individually with him apart from the crowd. In his brokenness, this man had the \_\_\_\_\_ attention of God.

### IV. Practical Application.

Methods and formulas are dangerous because people want to try to control the Holy Spirit by reproducing what He has done in the past using man's power instead of \_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord.

- Only an \_\_\_\_\_ touch from Jesus can enable us to really experience the Kingdom of God. Only Jesus can enable us to understand the wisdom and the ways of God.

### Small Group Discussion

*Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?*

- Why were the cities of Tyre and Sidon notable?*  
**Luke 10:14, Judges 10:6-16, Zechariah 9:1-4**
- Read **Mark 7:25-26**. *Why did this woman come to Jesus in the first place?*  
**Matthew 9:30-31, Matthew 15:21-22, Matthew 11:28, John 14:6, Revelation 6:1**
- Why did Jesus say to the woman in Mark 7:27 "Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."?*  
**John 1:11-13, Acts 1:8, Romans 1:16, John 3:16, Isaiah 42:6, Titus 2:11, 1 Timothy 4:10**
- Discuss the difference between Jesus referring to this woman as a little dog and the Jewish sentiment referring to Gentiles as dogs.  
**Acts 22:19-23, Isaiah 42:6**
- The Canaanite woman had faith that a "crumb" from Christ would provide a breakthrough. In her case, the crumb was healing. *Can you recall a time when a simple crumb or glimmer of hope was enough to answer a prayer in your life?*  
**Matthew 8:8-10, Mark 7:25**
- Discuss the practical application of this sermon.