

## Mark 7:24-30

### A Diamond in the Mud

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. 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. 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."

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

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.

Now at first glance **this doesn't sound like Jesus!**  
**This sounds like He is being rude to this Woman.**

A) **Jesus is not having a bad day!** He is not so fed up with people's rejection of Him and His message that **He is saying get lost.**

B) So when we see something like this it simply means that we need **to dig a little deeper** because Jesus is the same yesterday today and forever!

**Been said The brightest jewels are found in the darkest places.**

A) **Like finding a Diamond in the Mud**

B) **Our Lord's interaction with this woman and her faith is like a Diamond in the Mud –**

C) **The way that Jesus deals with her – He is going to take that Diamond out of the mud and wipe it off**

1) **Put it on Display for all to see!**

**SETTING: Jesus ventures into Gentile territory. This is the only occasion where Jesus ventures beyond the borders of Israel.**

A) Jesus left the area of Galilee because the Hatred of the religious leaders against Him **was growing** so much that it was getting dangerous to stay in Israel.

B) **And that hatred would only culminate later on in His crucifixion.**

1) It wasn't a matter of **FEAR** .... It was a matter of **TIMING!** – It wasn't time for Him to go to the cross.

C) So He goes to the Gentile area.

**Tyre & Sidon – In the region of Phoenicia- Modern DAY Lebanon.**

A) They were 2 coastal towns on the Med. **(30/40 miles N. of Capernaum over the mts**

**BB) They were the descendants of the Canaanites!**

**C) This was a pagan Gentile area that had been given over to idolatry –**

1) the worship of Baal was a part of their history.

**Why did He take this journey why did He go so far?**

**A) I believe it's because He was heading towards this woman!**

**Aa) He knew that she was there He knew this encounter was going to take place.**

**B) Similar to John 4:4 *Jesus needed to go through Samaria !***

1) Jewish people avoided Samaria like the plague –  
2) **Seacoast route** – Longer but easier / Less dangerous – avoided Samaria

**C) DIVINE APPOINTMENT – Same thing here – Divine appointment**

**D) And I believe that there were things that the Lord wanted us to see about this woman and **her situation and how it relates to us****

**Now v.24 is interesting it tells us that Jesus found a house to stay at there and He went into it hoping no one would know it!**

**A) LOW PROFILE! – But then it says He could not be hidden.**

**B) That is very important defining statement.**

**C) Because we've seen other times where He was hid**

D) John 8:59 in Nazareth when they wanted to push them off the cliff suddenly He was hidden from them and walked right through the midst of all of them.

**E) So understand He could be hid if He wanted to be!**

**He hides himself from religious hypocrisy and from the prideful**

**A) He hides from the antagonist and He can hide Himself from His enemies.**

**B) But He will not hide Himself, from desperate heart, He can never be hidden from a broken hearted.**

**How did this woman hear about Jesus?**

**A) Mark ch.3 tells us of a group of pp who had come from the region of Tyre and Sidon to hear Jesus in Galilee**

**B) No doubt they brought back reports of this man from Israel – referred to as the Son of David – Possible Messiah**

**C) Heal – blind see – demons cast out –**

**1) No **doubt this woman heard those stories****

**D)The Bible says that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God”**

1)she had heard about Him, faith was ignited in her heart!

**Her Problem:**

**A)Her young daughter was demon Possessed!**

**Young = 5 to 16 years of age**

**B)She looks into her daughter’s eyes and doesn’t know where her little girl has gone.**

1)the sweet little girl she raised is no longer there.

**C)Her innocence is gone.** – Her sweet girl’s eyes have become dark and piercing – **there is an evil in there!**

**D)Imagine what that must have been like for this mother.**

**E)Her daughter has been brought up in a violent and seductive culture** and it has taken its toll on her.

1)And we can relate to that can’t we?

**It is tough raising kids in any generation – today extra hard.**

**A)Now we do have some physical advantages today, medicine – hospitals - at least Today we can get them to adulthood**

**B)In ancient times that was more difficult you look at Susanna Wesley, she had 19 children but nine of them died before reaching adulthood.**

**C)Martin Luther – 7 kids – 2 died before reaching adulthood.**

**Some of you who were around back in the day remember when polio was a great problem in this country.**

**A)So today medicine - at least we can get them to adulthood**

**B)Churches and Youth groups – Christian music & Christian schools -**

**But there are some disadvantages as well!**

**A)We live in a generation that is constantly being washed by the media.**

**Aa)This is the MTV and reality TV generation.**

**B)In this media driven culture our kids are constantly being bombarded by worldly ideas./ Ideals**

1)And it becomes very difficult to shield them from that influence.

**C) And that as parents today living in this world we can find ourselves at times wondering what to do and how do we protect them**

1)And where do we draw the lines – what things do we choose to battle over when they become teenagers

**D)And how do we help them if they've been influenced, how can we change them.**

**If you have ever felt that way take that emotion and multiply it by hundred or thousand and you'll get a glimpse or a sense of what this woman was feeling about her own daughter.**

**A)She was raising her daughter in a pagan – occultic and idolatrous culture.**

**B)Result was it left her daughter Demon Possessed It was destroying this little girl**

**C)This mom is no doubt was feeling a sense of guilt going through that process in her mind all the **what ifs** /  
1)what if I would've done this differently. what if I would've not exposed her to that**

**D)What if I would've drawn the line there or the opposite –what if I had not been so strict –**

1)It goes both ways

**If you have ever been the parent of a prodigal you have wrestled with those thoughts.**

**A)Some of you here today look at your children and you see them far from God you see them struggling with the World.**

**B)And you can look at decisions that you have made and compromises that you have made as a parent or as an example.**

**C)You cannot pin point things that were mistakes and you feel guilty**

**D)You blame yourself – **And Satan loves to take us down the road in our minds/ those mental gymnastics****

**E)In order to bombard us with feelings of defeat and condemnation.**

**And the story we're looking at today is so important for us to see**

**A)That Jesus never brings up this mom's past – her decisions – how this happened –**

**B)Doesn't even mention it –**

1)Important for us to NOTE as we continue in this story

**C)We need to learn from our past – but we should not be mastered or defeated by our past.**

**So this woman comes to Jesus desperate, disillusioned, she is worn out, she doesn't know what to do with her daughter, she's completely helpless**

**A)She had heard these things about Jesus and how He heals the blind, raises the dead, Casts out the demons.**

**B)She finds out He is in her region He is in her very neighborhood, He has **crossed borders** that she never thought He would cross**

1) He's accessible, He's near and nothing is going to stop her from coming to Jesus

**And this is a great picture FOR US -because we see this woman who was going to stop at nothing to get her daughter to Jesus**

**A) We need to get our kids to Jesus –**

**B) Bring them here to church – As long as they are in your home – YOU BRING THEM HERE!**

1) God's word is powerful – doesn't return void

**C) Once they are Out of your home – You bring them to Jesus in Prayer! – You were a prodigal?**

**V.26 says she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter “Literally ask = to beg here is a present progressive—she keeps on begging.**

**Parents, never stop crying out to Jesus for your kids**

**B) He sees your desperate heart – He hears those prayers –**

1) He is working – even when you can't see how.

**Now at this point I want to read Matthew's account of this story. He gives us some details that Mark leaves out. Turn to Matthew 15 or follow on screens**

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! {This was the Hebrew

terminology for the Messiah – whether she is just picking up on the lingo – or actually believing – don't know.} **She is Desperate**

**My daughter is severely demon-possessed."**

**23 But He answered her not a word.**

**What does that mean?**

**A) Is Jesus giving her the silent treatment? Just ignoring her?**

**B) Has Jesus ever giving you the silent treatment?**

1) You pray – you cry out to Jesus- Mercy help – Silence ! – I have experienced that!

**C) Listen, there are times when we come to Jesus and we are asking for something or asking for help and all we get is silence and that's okay!**

**D) Silence doesn't mean refusal!**

**Delays are not Denials**

**Silence doesn't necessarily mean that He's disapproving or that there is sin in your life!**

**A) We often think God must be mad at me ! Not the case at all! – Not what is happening here with this woman.**

**B) The silence is not anger, it's not disapproval. It is not refusal, it's just silence.**

1) He has not forsaken us – He is there –

C) Like with this woman, Jesus is seeking to work something out of our faith.

1) Bible says that right now **we see thru a glass dimly Paul says one day we'll know one day that glass will be clear**  
**So Jesus was not being difficult with this broken hearted mother**

A) Instead He was drawing from her an expression of faith

B) So that not only would her daughter be healed, but that she herself would develop a relationship with Him.

C) So too, you might wonder if the Lord is being difficult with you.

1) Why isn't He answering your prayers immediately?  
Why isn't He helping you presently?

**D) It could be that He's doing something much deeper.**

1) It could be that He is allowing you to discover true faith, perseverance, and prevailing prayer —

E) **Invaluable understandings** which will help you not only in your present situation,

1) but will also help you in Yrs to Come !

Back to Matthews' account and notice the disciples v.23b

And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

**These are the apostles, this seems to be their favorite message, send them away.**

A) That is their philosophy of ministry, send them away. **Multitudes – Kids this woman –**

B) There are two mistakes they make here:

C) The first is that Jesus doesn't send people away when they **are broken hearted.**

1) Once again they don't get His heart at all!

**Been said: "Jesus has been the victim of a lot of bad PR and most of it has come from His friends!"**

A) Encourage you, please don't turn away from Jesus by the way Christians treat you.

B) Christians can be so insensitive, Christian's can be so narrow minded, Christians can be so unloving

1) Christians can be so judgmental

C) **But Jesus is none of those things, so please don't turn away Jesus because of the way that Christian Treats you**

D) There's no such thing as a perfect church and if you ever find one don't go there because you'll Ruin it.

**The church is made up of broken people who are in the process of being fixed by Jesus and it is a process.**

A) So don't turn away from the Lord because of Christians.

B) We are sinners simply being made new by Jesus !

C) These were the apostles – **Jesus' boys** – His closest followers and they are clueless! { Lord send her away  
**That was their first mistake - Their second mistake was "they said Lord she's crying after us."**

A) There was no US in her statement she was crying after Jesus!

B) Note this – there is no US with us either –  
1) NOT ABOUT US – IT IS ABOUT HIM !

C) Simply Jesus – He is the one who saves – He is the one who heals – He is the one who redeems

D) The Disciples were the send her away boys

**24 But He answered and said, {Note this – He is answering them. Not talking to her right now – but she can hear him.} "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."**

A) See, He doesn't want them to misconstrue what's happening here.

B) He has left the territory of Israel but He hasn't left His mission for Israel.

Bb) **He is Israel's Messiah.** And as we shall see that is still first and foremost on His mind, the salvation of Israel/ salvation of the Jewish people.

C) So this statement is made to them and the grammar of the text makes that very clear because He was responding to their Statement

**25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"**

A) She hears Him say that He was sent to the **lost sheep of the tribe of Israel.**

B) And she thinks while I'm not **one of those but I am a lost sheep from Tyre and Sidon.** { I believe in You and I believe You can help me

**26 But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."**

A) Now we hear this And we think, wait a minute, this does not sound like Jesus.

B) We want the old Jesus back, where did our kind, caring and compassionate hearted Jesus go?

C) "On the surface, this appears to be an insult.  
1) Especially when you know that the Jewish culture was not **canine-loving culture like we are.**

**Jews referred to Gentiles as dogs – it wasn't a term of endearment – Randy Jackson- Yo Dog**

A) In New Testament times most dogs were scavengers—wild, dirty, uncouth in every way.

**B) To call a person a dog was about as derogatory as you could be!**

1) Dirty rotten scavengers, good for nothing takers

**C) The Greek word for that kind of dog was Goyum – but that is not the word that Jesus uses here.**

1) He uses the word for puppy – Kynarian (KUNARIAN)

**Jesus is saying to her, “You know how families eat:**

**A) First the children eat at the table, and afterward their pets eat too.**

**B) It is not right to violate that order.**

1) The puppies must not eat food from the table before the children do.”

**C) This was His point – there was an order to His ministry**

**“Jesus concentrated His ministry on Israel, for all sorts of reasons.**

**A) He was sent to show Israel that He was the fulfillment of all Scripture’s promises,**

**B) the fulfillment of all the prophets, priests, and kings, the fulfillment of the temple.**

**C) But after He was resurrected, He immediately said to the disciples, “Go to all the nations.” His words, then, are not the insult they appear to be.**

**D) What he’s saying to the Syrophenician woman is, “Please understand, there’s an order here.**

1) Israel first – other nations after that!

**What He is doing here is drawing out her faith even more – Wiping the Mud off the Diamond**

**A) Notice her response v 27 And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master's table.”**

**B) This is amazing - “Okay, I understand. I am not from Israel, I do not worship the God that the Israelites worship.**

1) Therefore, I don’t have a place at the table. I accept that.”

**C) She doesn’t take offense; How dare you refer to me with some racial slur - .**

1) she doesn’t stand on her rights. She doesn’t have her hands on her hips saying but I deserve this and I am good mother – etc

**She in affect says , “All right. I may not have a place at the table—but there’s more than enough on that table for everyone in the world, and I need mine now.”**

A) She is wrestling with Jesus in the most respectful way!

B) I love the thoughts of Pastor - Timothy Keller on this point: He writes **The Kings Cross**



“In Western cultures we don’t have anything like this kind of assertiveness. We only have assertion of our rights. We do not know how to contend unless we’re standing up for our rights, standing on our dignity and our goodness and saying, “This is what I’m owed.” But this woman is not doing that at all. This is **rightless assertiveness**, something we know little about. She’s not saying, “Lord, give me what I deserve on the basis of my goodness.” She’s saying, “Give me what I don’t deserve on the basis of your goodness—and I need it now.”

**C) Do you see how remarkable it is that she recognizes and accepts both the challenge and the offer hidden within it?”**

D) She is saying: Lord I can be that little puppy – and this is what I know –

**“the crumbs that fall under Your table are better than anything that this world can do for me.**

**The crumbs that fall from Your table are better than anything that this world has to offer me!**

Matthew 15

28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

**That can be your story today - Some of you are here today and you have been ruined by the world.**

**A) Life has bitten you – had some pleasure – but it has worked you over – torn you up.**

**B) If you, like this woman would come to Jesus today in faith and cry out for mercy – Save me! Touch me!**

**C) Say to Jesus – Lord – I know the crumbs that come from Your table are better than anything this world can give me or offer me!**

**D) Jesus will not be hidden from you – He is going to work in your life – Salvation today.**

**C) Awesome promise in the Bible Joel 2:25 “He is able to restore the years that the locust have eaten.”**

**D) He can begin a restoring work in your life today!**

Pray:

**Some of you here are parents of prodigals – You have been dealing with guilt- Satan has been pounding you**

Jesus is not holding you responsible for your kids’ bad choices –

If you have confessed – your mistakes – He has forgiven you – forgiven and forgotten –

Freedom: walk in it – Receive His healing touch right now

Parents of Prodigals – Keep praying - begging – Bring them to Jesus – Right now

**Some of you here today – You are a prodigal – someone has been praying for you.**

**A)Parent – grand parent**

**B)You have been lost –**

**C)Jesus wants to have a Divine appointment with you today.**

**D)Went to the cross – pay for your sins**

**Others like this woman – Pagan culture – not brought up in a religious home**

**A)Jesus loves you – desires to save you**

**B)Jesus save me!**

**C)Give your heart to Jesus today.**

Hello Pastor Rob,

My name is Zana Dominguez and I was married to Manny Dominguez. We have two children, a two year old daughter and a four year old son. As you may know, we were divorced in October, but still remained close.

I know you were the pastor to help him be saved by Jesus on April 21<sup>st</sup>. I am reaching out to you about Manny because although we buried him on Saturday, I am not at peace. I know he loved me and our kids. I miss him and I am looking to you for comfort and any last words or stories he may have shared with you.

You were a big part of his life in that you were able to help him be saved. I am in Fort Worth TX, area and I would like to be saved as well. I want to start going to church and taking our kids to church

**Jessica,  
He already has –He has shown me his grace and mercy and I am so grateful.**