



JESUS: The Servant of God

A verse-by-verse study of the Gospel of Mark

The Gospel is Powerful

Mark 7:24-37

Message #19

Sermon given on April 9, 2026



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Gospel is Powerful

Mark 7:24-37

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Mark 7**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Mark – **JESUS: The Servant of God**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Gospel is Powerful**
- Jesus is God the Son.
- He is the Second Person of the Triune Godhead, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, Three in One.
- As God, the power of God resides within Him.
- As God, with the power of God, there is no limit to what Jesus can do.
- But Jesus was limited. **John 8:28-29**
²⁸ Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and *that* I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. ²⁹ And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."
- The only thing that limits God is God Himself.
- So far, in the Gospel of Mark we have seen many miraculous expressions of God's power by Jesus.
- He has healed countless people of every imaginable disease, injury, or sickness.
- He has healed people of things they were born with, like blindness.
- He has raised the dead.
- He used the creative power of God to multiply fives loaves of bread and two small fish to feed several thousand people and end up with more leftovers than they started with.
- He walked on the water and stilled the wind and waves with a word.
- He has delivered people from the slavery of demon-possession, including one man who was possessed by thousands of demons.
- Everyone in and around Israel knew Jesus was a miracle worker.

- A miracle is when God, who exists outside time, space, and matter, does something that is beyond our understanding of time, space, and matter.
 - Jesus is going to do two more miracles in our text for today.
 - They teach us something about how God uses His power in the world.
 - The first one is for a woman who comes seeking Jesus' help for her daughter.
 - **Mark 7:24-26**
 - Tyre was about 40 miles northwest of Capernaum.
 - This is outside of Israel.
 - This may be the only time Jesus left Israel during His three-year ministry.
 - This mother was a Gentile, a non-Jew.
 - From a Jewish perspective Jesus had every reason to ignore her request.
 - Matthew's gospel tells us that is what Jesus did for a while. **Matthew 15:21-23**
- ²¹ 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! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." ²³ But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."
- We should note that she refers to Jesus as Son of David.
 - That has a very important meaning, and it is odd to hear it coming from a Gentile.
 - Son of David is the title of the Messiah.
 - She knows and believes things about Jesus that most Jews in Israel do not.
 - Jesus does eventually respond to her. **Matthew 15:24**
- ²⁴ But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
- The Lord appeared to Isaac and told him what God wanted for his descendants. **Genesis 26:4**
- ⁴ And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed...
- Jesus was there to call the Jews back to the role of being a blessing to the nations.
 - There is more going on than just the fact that she is a Gentile.

- The fact that he is in Gentile territory says He is there to minister to everyone, including the Gentiles.
- He is challenging her faith.
- **Mark 7:27**
- Jesus is not telling her no.
- **Mark 7:28**
- This mother believed Jesus could deliver her daughter from the demon.
- She believed that He didn't need all His power to do it, just a crumb would do.
- That is the kind of faith that can see radical and amazing things happen.
- **Mark 7:29-30**
- Notice a few things about this miracle.
- First, Jesus didn't have to be with the little girl to deliver her.
- Also, Jesus didn't say a word, He just declared that it had already happened.
- Then Jesus challenged her faith again and told her to believe that it had happened.
- There is a mysterious component to the miraculous power of God, our faith.
- Would this woman's daughter have been healed if her mother had not come to Jesus believing He could deliver her.
- Probably not. **James 4:2-3**
- ²...**Yet you do not have because you do not ask.** ³**You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.**
- Do you believe God is able to do whatever you need Him to do?
- The disciples wanted Jesus to send her away rather than help her.
- Because she was a Gentile, they didn't believe she was worthy of God's grace and mercy.
- Jesus wanted them to see her faith before He helped so that they might understand His greater mission, to bring salvation, not just to the Jews but to the whole world.
- There are some who struggle with going to God because they might feel their sins make them unworthy of God's grace and mercy.

- In ourselves, we are unworthy, but that changes the moment we receive Christ as our Savior.
- Through repentance we are washed clean by the blood of Christ.
- The writer to the Hebrews encouraged us how to approach God as Christ-followers. **Hebrews 4:14-16**

¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- When we repent and receive Christ, we are covered with the righteousness of Christ.
- That means God doesn't look upon our lacking righteousness, but He sees us covered by His Son's righteousness.
- God can no more reject us than He would His own perfect Son.
- Our text continues with Jesus leaving Tyre and traveling back to the Sea of Galilee.
- **Mark 7:31-32**
- This is the same area where Jesus delivered the demoniac who was possessed by thousands of demons.
- Afterward the people of the area asked Jesus to leave.
- Now, He arrives and they bring this deaf and mute man to Jesus.
- Then Jesus does something different.
- **Mark 7:33-35**
- In Matthew's gospel we are told that the multitudes came with many people who needed to be healed and Jesus met their need, it would seem publicly.
- But in Mark's account he singles out this one event.
- We are not told why Jesus took this one man aside and did this healing privately.
- Mark also records how Jesus healed the man.
- If you study how Jesus healed looking for a pattern what you will discover is there is no pattern.
- I believe there is an important lesson in that for us.
- Sometimes, when we pray, asking for God to exercise His sovereign almighty power on our behalf, we inform Him how we would like to see Him do it.

- Why do we do that?
- Why do we think we are in any position to tell God anything?
- It is so much better to just let God do it.
- Just bring it to Jesus and let Him do what He wants, even if it seems a little weird, like sticking His fingers in your ears and spitting on your tongue.
- I am willing to bet that man, once Jesus healed him, didn't care at all how Jesus did it.
- Then Jesus did something that some people find perplexing.
- **Mark 7:36**
- Why would Jesus not want them to tell everyone about the miraculous things He had done?
- Jesus did the miracles as evidence that He was from God, the promised Messiah, the Son of David, the Son of God.
- But He didn't come to the world to do miracles.
- He came to proclaim a message. **Mark 1:14-15**
- 14 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."
- Jesus didn't want to miracles to get in the way of the message.
- This is a warning to us as well.
- If you are waiting for a miracle to believe something about God or to trust Him, you have things backwards.
- Trust and faith always precede the miracles.
- Go to God with your needs, whatever they might be.
- Believe God's Word and trust Him to act on your behalf and then simply wait.
- God is always faithful to those who are His.
- If you have put your faith in Christ, you are one of God's children.
- God always takes perfect care of His kids.
- This miracle and others like it have a natural effect upon those who witness them.
- **Mark 7:37**
- They were astonished beyond measure.
- They are having a hard time believing their eyes because what Jesus is doing is not humanly possible.

- They say He does all things well.
- They are glorifying God when they say that.
- The writer to the Hebrews said something about Jesus that should encourage us when we read a verse like this. **Hebrews 13:8**
- ⁸ **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**
- What a comfort that should be to us.
- Often the things I need Jesus to help me with are not nearly as extreme as having a child who is demon possessed or being deaf and mute.
- But the Jesus who set that daughter free is the same Jesus who can free me from whatever might be trying to bind me.
- The same Jesus who made the deaf to hear and the mute to speak is the same Jesus who can guide me when I am feeling lost, or confused, or sad, or anything else.
- I would like to leave you with a couple of quick thoughts.
- First, if you are a child of God through faith in Jesus, you have been given the right to take your needs to Him.
- God's power is always standing ready to reach into time, space, and matter to meet your need.
- Second, don't presume to know how God can meet your need.
- He is God and you are not.
- Trust Him to use His creative power to do what needs to be done.
- I can't tell you how many times in my life God has met our needs in ways we didn't expect.
- I love it when He does that.
- I usually pray that way; God surprise me with how you meet our needs.
- Third, glorify God with every thought, word, and action.
- Even as you wait for God to manifest His power on your behalf, believe that He will and praise Him for doing it in advance.
- Nothing can limit the power of God, but failing to bring our needs to God in faith will keep us from experiencing it.
- God loves His children and He loves showing that through His power meeting their needs.
- Take it all to Him, trust Him, and glorify Him while you wait for Him to act.
- **Pray – Communion - Last Song**