

LifeGroup Study SheetJuly 16th, 2023 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 24)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Talk about a time when you were desperate for help! What did you have to do? In this story, Jesus deals with two different people who were in desperate need for help!

Digging In

Question 1: Read Mark 7:24-37. In this story, the woman who was not Jewish but Greek, shows incredible persistence with Jesus. She knew that she Jesus had come to the Jewish people first, then the Gentiles. But she persisted for Jesus' mercy to be shown to her when she was in His presence! Be pleaded with Jesus!

There was an order in which God came to save the world – to the Jews first and then the Gentiles.

Read Romans 1:16.

How do you plead for God's mercy and grace in your own life? How does this woman's faith convict you in your prayers with Jesus?

Question 2: Read Mark 7:28-30. This woman's faith was bold! Notice this woman's response to Jesus, even after being called a "dog." This was not a compliment, but rather how Jewish people view Gentile people – unclean and dirty. But notice she doesn't debate Jesus' words. She said, "Yes Lord!" She knew she was unworthy. But she knew of the mercy and grace of Jesus. And she willingly accepts her place but demands his mercy!

The Gospel says this: I cannot come to God based on my own goodness, I come to God on based on Jesus' goodness!

How do you approach God? Is it with the proper perspective that Jesus has of our own unworthiness? But is it also in the view of God's mercy and grace? Is it balanced between knowing how sinful you are, but how absolutely valued and loved by God you are?

Question 3: Read Mark 7:32-37. The next story is about a man that was deaf and had a speech impediment that was brought to Jesus. Jesus does some unconventional things to heal him like putting his fingers in his ears, spits and touches his tongue. But verse 34 says that Jesus "sighed deeply or groaned." Why is this Jesus' response, when he knows what He is about to do? Jesus is about to heal this man, and he is groaning. Jesus knows that to heal this man, not just physically, but spiritually, He will eventually have to die. He will go to the cross!

Read Isaiah 35:4-5

How has God healed you? In what ways are you currently suffering and anxious (v.4), that you should not fear, but trust God? How do you need to be reminded that if God was willing to go the His death for you, that you can continue to trust him with the circumstances of your life?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?