



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

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5 September 2021

Mark 7:24-37 (NIV)

Jesus Honors a Syrophenician Woman's Faith

²⁴ Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret.

²⁵ In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet.

²⁶ The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

²⁷ "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

²⁸ "Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

²⁹ Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter."

³⁰ She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Jesus Heals a Deaf and Mute Man

³¹ Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis.

³² There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

³³ After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue.

³⁴ He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!").

³⁵ At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

³⁶ Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it.

³⁷ People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

¹ A good name is more desirable than great riches;
to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

² Rich and poor have this in common:
The LORD is the Maker of them all.

⁸ Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity,
and the rod they wield in fury will be broken.

⁹ The generous will themselves be blessed,
for they share their food with the poor.

²² Do not exploit the poor because they are poor
and do not crush the needy in court,

²³ for the LORD will take up their case
and will exact life for life.

Psalm 125 (NIV)

¹ Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be shaken but endures forever.

² As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people
both now and forevermore.

³ The sceptre of the wicked will not remain
over the land allotted to the righteous,
for then the righteous might use
their hands to do evil.

⁴ LORD, do good to those who are good,
to those who are upright in heart.

⁵ But those who turn to crooked ways
the LORD will banish with the evildoers.
Peace be on Israel.



A blessing is a circle of light drawn around a person to protect, heal and strengthen. ~ JO'Donohue.

PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Pastoral Care: **Meg Mangan 0476 375 989**

Elders: Margaret Crowell Ross Davidson Bruce Jarrett





IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for the people of Afghanistan; the women, the ethnic minority groups, the soldiers, the traders and the farmers.
- We pray for people struggling financially during the lockdown.
- We give thanks for the beauty of spring.
- We pray for all those people making decisions about how we move forward - the doctors, the politicians and the advisors.
- We give thanks, and pray for, our friends and neighbours.



Mark 7 : 24 - 37:

Jesus was becoming so well known in Israel that he attempted to get away from the crowds by going into Gentile territory. Even here, he was quickly recognised. This Phoenician woman was taking a huge risk in an attempt to gain healing for her daughter. Women were expected to go out only when accompanied by a male relative. To do otherwise was to risk being misunderstood, or even attacked. These rules are still enforced in some parts of the world today, including Saudi Arabia and parts of northern Pakistan. This woman appears to have been well informed about what was going on around her - perhaps because she was used to being out unaccompanied? The woman made her request to Jesus, only to be rebuffed. At this stage, Jesus' disciples probably wanted to send her on her way, but the woman persisted. Rather than taking offense at what Jesus said, the woman was able to work with the terms which Jesus used, and to make a response. Jesus must have been impressed by the woman, who was prepared to swallow insults in order to gain healing for her daughter. It showed a love for her daughter, and an unshakable belief that Jesus was able to grant her request - even though she wasn't Jewish. Jesus then moved on to other Gentile territory, and was again challenged to heal a man who was deaf. We aren't told of his ethnicity. Perhaps Mark felt that it was important to include Jesus' contact with Gentile people in his gospel. The Phoenician woman showed courage and persistence. If Jesus was ready and able to heal Gentile people, the early church (and our modern church) should also decide to accept them as Christians, and as people of value to God.

Blessings from Meg

Meg's Musings

Last weekend my daughter and her family went for a walk in a park at Concord. The park is within five kilometres of their unit, and was an opportunity to do some walking. Bronwyn took photos, including a couple of photos of roses blooming - not covered in blooms, but showing the first blooms of the season. It was lovely to see that she could experience that beauty during lockdown. It is also an encouragement that, here in Tamworth, roses blooming is not too long away. Already the local rose bushes have a good covering of leaves. We can look around us and see God at work, in the encouraging signs and already-there beauty - or we can choose to dwell on the fact that life isn't perfect. In Sunday School we used to sing the song, "Count Your Blessings". When we choose to do that, God surprises us in many ways,

Blessing from Meg



1 When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Refrain:

Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

3 When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.

[Refrain]

4 So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

[Refrain]

Baptist Hymnal, 1991 (-2)

The secret of happiness is to count your blessings while others are adding up their troubles. ~ William Penn

5 September ~ **Fay Monckton**
26 September ~ **Carol Thompson**
29 September ~ **Athol Whitten**
30 September ~ **John Murray**



..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus