

27 March 2022

Mark 7:24-30 – From Suffering to Searching: The Syrophenician Woman's Faith Journey

1. Suffering

²⁴ And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. ²⁵ But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth.

1.1 Personal distress

1.2 Spiritual distress

1.3 Loneliness

Question 1: What types of suffering are there in the world?

Question 2: Are there particular types of suffering which Christians experience?

2. Searching

And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

2.1 Jesus tests

2.2 Jesus gives hope

2.3 She is faithful in something small

Question 3: Why does Jesus test us?

Question 4: How does Jesus give us hope in suffering?

Question 5: How can we be faithful in relation to something small, and begin to turn our suffering into searching?

A Prayer

Loving Lord, thank you that you travelled long and far to meet this woman in her need, and have done the same for me. As I deal with suffering, help me to understand it better within the spiritual realm. I ask for your strength to keep faithful through times of testing and be responsive and obedient in relation to small blessings and opportunities. May your hope shine ever brighter in my heart until I see you face to face, and everything becomes clear, for the sake of your Son my Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.