



**The Gospel of Mark – Will You Pass the Tests?
Pastor Dave Patterson 06.30.2024**

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[James 1:2-4]

² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested,) your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

[Mark 7:24]

Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know which house he was staying in, but he couldn't keep it a secret.

[Mark 7:25-29]

²⁵ Right away a woman who had heard about him came and fell at his feet. Her little girl was possessed by an evil spirit, ²⁶ and she begged him to cast out the demon from her daughter. Since she was a Gentile, born in Syrian Phoenicia, ²⁷ Jesus told

her, "First I should feed the children—my own family, the Jews. It isn't right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs. ²⁸" She replied, "That's true, Lord, but even the dogs under the table are allowed to eat the scraps from the children's plates." Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." ²⁹ "Good answer!" he said. "Now go home, for the demon has left your daughter."

[Matthew 15:23]

But Jesus gave her no reply, not even a word. Then his disciples urged him to send her away. "Tell her to go away," they said. "She is bothering us with all her begging."

4 Applications from this story:

1. Recognize the people in your life that you would ask Jesus to "send away."

2. Intentionally make a place for the "outsider." (Pull out a chair)

[Matthew 15:21]

She came to him, pleading, "Have mercy on me, O Lord (Master), Son of David!

3. Deliberately plant "seeds of faith" in your heart. (Dig into the Word)

4. Do not interpret delay or God's silence as denial or defeat, press in! (

[Luke 18:1-8]

¹ One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. ² "There was a judge in a certain city," he said, "who neither feared God nor cared about people. ³ A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.' ⁴ The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, 'I don't fear God or care about people, ⁵ but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!'" ⁶ Then the Lord said, "Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. ⁷ Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So, don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?"

Key Points:

4 Applications from this story:

1. Recognize the people in your life that you would ask Jesus to "send away."
2. Intentionally make a place for the "outsider." (Pull out a chair)
3. Deliberately plant "seeds of faith" in your heart. (Dig into the Word)
4. Do not interpret delay or God's silence as denial or defeat, press in!

Applications for the Week:

Identify one person in your life who might feel excluded or marginalized. What specific action can you take this week to show them compassion and inclusion?

Discussion Questions

1. Reflect on a recent "pop quiz" moment in your life. How did you respond, and what did it reveal about your spiritual preparedness?
2. What was Jesus' initial response to the Canaanite woman's plea in Mark 7:24-30, and how did she react?
3. Why do you think Jesus initially responded to the Canaanite woman in a way that seemed harsh? What was He trying to teach both her and the disciples?
4. How did the disciples react to the Canaanite woman, and what does this reveal about their understanding of Jesus' teachings?
5. In what ways do the disciples' reactions to the Canaanite woman reflect common attitudes towards outsiders in our own communities?
6. Who are the "outsiders" in your life that you might instinctively want to send away? How can you intentionally make space for them?
7. How does the Canaanite woman's persistence and faith challenge our understanding of faith and desperation?
8. What are some practical ways you can plant seeds of faith in your heart through consistent engagement with God's Word?
9. Have you ever interpreted God's delays or silence as denial? How can the story of the Canaanite woman encourage you to hold on to God's promises?
10. Think of a time when you felt desperate. How did that desperation affect your faith? How can you allow your desperation to drive you closer to God rather than away from Him?
11. How can you prepare yourself spiritually to recognize and pass the tests of faith that come your way? What changes can you make in your daily routine to stay spiritually prepared?