

## **Even the Dogs**

Mark 7:24-37

by Don Falkos

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Jesus left Galilee and went northwest to the region of Tyre. A woman whose little girl was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet. She begged Jesus to cast the evil spirit out of her daughter. But she was a Gentile, born in Syrian Phoenicia, so Jesus told her, "First the children – my own people, the Jews – must be allowed to have all they want. After all, it isn't right to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

She replied, "Yes, Lord, I know, but even the dogs under the table are allowed to eat the scraps the children leave behind."

"Well said!" he responded. "Now go home. The evil spirit has left your daughter."

The woman went home and found her little girl lying quietly in bed. The evil spirit was gone.

Jesus left Tyre and went north to Sidon. Then he traveled southeast passed the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis, east of the Jordan River. Some people brought a man who was deaf and who couldn't speak clearly. They begged Jesus to lay his hands on the man to heal him.

Jesus led the man away from the crowd so they could be alone. He put his fingers in the man's ears. Then, spitting on his fingers, he touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven, sighed, and said, "Be opened!" Instantly the man could hear perfectly and speak plainly.

Jesus told the crowd not to tell anyone, but that just made them talk about it all the more. They were absolutely amazed and kept saying, "Everything he does is wonderful. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."