



Mark's Jesus crosses lines borders:

- Mark 1:40-41 He is willing to touch an unclean leper
- Mark 2: 15- 16 He eats with tax collectors and sinners
- Mark 2:23-24 He harvests on the Sabbath
- Mark 3: 1-4 He heals on the Sabbath
- Mark 5:1ff He enters the Gentile Decapolis and heals a demoniac
- Mark 7: 24-30 He goes to Tyre and is challenged by the Syrophenician women
- Mark 7: 31-36: He goes back to the Decapolis and heals a deaf man

The Syrophenician Woman's Faith

Mark 7

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre.²⁴ He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir,²⁹ even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter."³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Questions:

- How comfortable are we to think of Jesus learning, growing, having an epiphany – or do we read this story in another way?
- Have you had an encounter that opened you up to new understanding?
- In what ways do we as a church reflect this turning in the story of God's people? Where have we been opened to new people, new inclusivity?