



desert breeze community church

Teaching Notes: Ray Davis
July 05, 2009
Jesusology

Mark 7:24-37

“Humble Confidence”

Two extreme approaches in our culture today: One is based on His transcendence and it is an appeasing of God through works. The Second is based on His imminence and it is a cavalier attitude that God is at my beckoning call regardless of what I do. God is Great (wow)! But he is also Good (mmmmm)! (Ps. 8:3-4)

The Cross shows me that I am more sinful than I dared to think, but at the same time more loved than I ever dared to dream (Humble Confidence). This eliminates both fear and pride as a motivation for life change and replaces it with a heart that is smitten by the beauty and love of Jesus Christ.

Healthy Relationship with God is Humble Confidence:

Mark 7:24-37

Humility is... (vv24-30)

This comes from her knowledge of Jesus. v25 “heard of Him.”

- ✓ **Showing Honor.** v25 “fell down at His feet.” (Attitude: Mark 1:7; 1 John 3:1; Actions: Clapping Ps. 47:1; Dancing Ps. 30:11; Lifting hands Ps. 28:2; Lifting head Ps. 3:3; Kneeling Ps. 95:6; Standing Ps. 122:2; Listening Ps. 49:1; Bringing offering Ps. 96:8)
- ✓ **Being Honest.** v26a “Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.” (Ps. 51:6, 145:18)
- ✓ **Seeking Help.** v26 “and she begged Him.” (Ps. 9:9-10; 55:22; Jer. 29:11, 13; Heb. 11:1, 6)
- ✓ **Not easily Hurt.** v28 “even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” (1 Pet. 5:5-7; James 4:6; Ps. 36:7-9)

Confidence is... (vv31-37)

- ✓ **Knowing that Jesus Knows.** V33 “Taking him aside from the crowd privately.” (Matt. 10:29-31; Ps. 139)
- ✓ **Knowing that Jesus Understands.** V34 “Looking to heaven He sighed.” (Heb. 4:15-16)
- ✓ **Knowing that Jesus Cares.** V33 “...he put his fingers into his ears, after spitting touched his tongue.” (Ps. 34:18; 2 Cor. 1:3-4)
- ✓ **Knowing that Jesus will ultimately defeat all sin and suffering.** Mark uses an extremely rare word for the man’s speech impediment, the Greek word is “mogilalos”. Isa. 35:5 is the only other place it is used describing the coming of God’s future Kingdom. (Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 5:17)

Healthy Relationships with Others Will Be:

Humble confidence isn’t that you think less of yourself, but that you think of your self less. It’s blessed self-forgetfulness. It is to have our superiority complex removed by the doctrine of sin and our inferiority complex removed by the doctrine of grace. And because a humble confident person is not self-centered through boasting or self-pity they are free to count the concerns of others as more important than their own (Phil. 2:3b).

- ✓ Balance of grace and truth. (Eph. 4:15, 25)
- ✓ Authenticity with all and deep disclosure when beneficial. (Gal. 6:2; James 5:16)
- ✓ Reaching over cultural, racial, and gender barriers. (Gal. 2:11-21, 3:28)
- ✓ Not easily offended and careful not to offend. (1 Pet. 4:8; Matt. 5:23-26)

July 12	“Connecting the Dots”	Mark 8:1-21
July 19	“Spiritual Blindness”	Mark 8:22-9:1
July 26	Topical	TBA
August 2	Topical	TBA



Growing

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1) What kind of imbalances in our approach to God happens when we emphasize God's transcendence (Greatness) to the exclusion of His imminence (Goodness) or vice versa? Which one do you tend to gravitate towards?

2) How does the cross give us a balanced approach to God? Read Mark 7:24-37. What do you think this Syrophenician woman had "heard of him" (v25) to show honor, to be honest and to seek help from Him?

3) How would you define humility? How does this woman's response to Jesus put on display humble confidence (v28)? What is Jesus' more detailed response to this woman according to Matt. 15:28?

4) How does Jesus show to this deaf man that He knows, understands and cares about him? How can knowing these three things help you through your difficult times? How can knowing Jesus will ultimately defeat all sin and suffering give you confidence & endurance for today (Rom.8:18; 2 Cor. 5:17)?

5) What are the characteristics that humble confidence with God produces in our relationships with others? Which one(s) do you struggle with the most? Reflect & pray for a deeper understanding of the doctrine of sin and grace which will be evidenced by unspeakable joy.