

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

28 Nov – 2 Dec 2011

LESSON 9 - GOD'S SERVANT OUTSIDE THE BOX

INTRODUCTION:

If you had a chance to heal anyone at this very moment, who would it be and why?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION:

Note: As Jesus' popularity grew, so did the demands upon His time. Often we find Jesus operating outside "the box". His responses to the needs and demands of the people varied. But one thing we can be assured of – all that He said and did was done purposefully and in complete unity with the will of God. We see that Mark's style is not to preach, just tell what happened – allowing us to see His power. We also see how faith helps even people far away from "religion" to open their heart to accept Jesus as their Messiah.

Read Mark 7:24-30

Note: A wall in the temple prevented Gentiles from entering the Jewish temple courts under penalty of death. God wanted the Jews to witness to the Gentiles of the true and living God; but His people failed in their task. Jesus would break down the wall of separation and remove the "spiritual distance," thus making believing Gentiles and believing Jews one in Christ (Eph. 2:11–22).¹

1. Many of the Jews felt like "God owed them" since they were "His people". What term did Jesus use to confirm His relationship to them? To Gentiles? Vs 27 What claim did this woman have on Jesus' grace?
2. Is it significant that Jesus healed the daughter at a distance? What can we learn from this encounter and Jesus' response to her? How was her faith demonstrated? Vs 28
3. Why did Mark share this exchange between a non-Jewish woman and Jesus?

Read Mark 7:31-37

4. How is it that the people of Decapolis knew about Jesus? Mk 5:17, 20
5. What was unique in the way Jesus healed this man? Vv 33-35 Was he healed spiritually, too?
6. How does the deaf man (and his healing) compare to the nation of Israel? Isa 35:5
7. How did Mark subtly imply that Jesus is the Messiah? Vs 37; Isa 35:5-6

Read Mark 8:22-26

8. Why did the people approach Jesus with the blind man?
9. How does Jesus physically respond in this the situation?
10. What was Jesus' point in healing the man in stages? Is Jesus comparing the disciples' spiritual blindness to the blind man's physical blindness? Is Mark implying another "Messianic secret?"

APPLICATION

- How is God calling you to step outside the box in ministering to others?
- Jesus asked the people to not tell anyone about Himself and yet they talked. Today he asks people to tell everyone the Good News (Gospel) and yet they (we) remain silent. Why?

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1997). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (120). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.