

# **A Mom's Passion & Persistence**

"Case For Christ" Series, (A Study of Mark's Gospel, part 25)  
Insights from Mark 7:24-30 and Matthew 15:21-28  
May 8th, 2022, Pastor Bob Johnson, GPC

## **Time for Plan B:**

(Mark 4:1, 35-36; 5:21; 6:30-34, 53-55; 7:24)

## **A Surprising Story:**

(Mark 7:25-30, Mark 5:19-20, Matthew 15:21-28, Romans 1:16, Isaiah 49:6)

## **Three Choices To "Kingdom Living":**

### **1. H \_\_\_\_\_**

(James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5, Proverbs 3:34)

### **2. T \_\_\_\_\_**

(Romans 5:3-4)

## **Obstacles are Opportunities to ...**

## **Jesus taught us to live and pray with ...**

(Luke 11:1-13, 18:1-8)

### **3. L \_\_\_\_\_**

(Matthew 15:22-23, Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8)

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## **This Week's Discussion Guide**

Welcome to our second week of our nine week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

### **Getting Started:**

Each week, we typically start out with a few fun questions to get us warmed up :).

In honor of Mother's Day, what is a positive memory you have of your mom or childhood?

In Mark 7:24, when several attempts to find a place to rest didn't work out, Jesus chose to travel north up the coast to Tyre and Sidon. What is a place that you have enjoyed where you were able to get some rest? Where is a place that you haven't been to yet, that you would like to go to enjoy and have a restful time?

Mark 7:24-30 is a surprising story in the Bible in that Jesus says some things that seem out of character until they are looked at more carefully. Speaking of surprises, when was a time you were pleasantly surprised?

Sometimes surprises are good surprises ... and some not so good.

When was there a surprise that caused you to change your plans or ask someone for help?

Usually, there are some helpful lessons learned from challenging experiences.

Can you think of something you learned from an unpleasant experience or surprise?

One of the choices that was mentioned from Sunday was choosing tenacity when it comes to our walk with God. Lately, where have you had an opportunity to show some perseverance and not give up? Can you think of any ways your faith has been tested that has led to personal growth?

Who is an example that inspires you when it comes to perseverance?

### **Reviewing and Reflecting on the Passage:**

Let's read the two key passages from last Sunday. (Mark 7:24-30 and Matthew 15:21-28)

After reading these passages and looking back on our notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you? What are some takeaways from these stories in regards to our faith?

## **Digging Deeper:**

1. The woman in Mark 7 was one of only two people (both gentiles) that Jesus said had 'great faith'. The other person was a Centurion (Roman soldier) whose faith Jesus 'marveled' at. Let's read through his story and discuss why we think Jesus was impressed at his faith.

Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10

If Jesus were to look at your faith, what do you think his response would be?

Can you think of any ways you may want to focus on growing your faith in the coming days?

2. In Mark 7, the woman gave a great example of spiritual tenacity. She didn't give up in seeking God's help in regards to her daughter. In Luke 11 and Luke 18, Jesus tells two stories to encourage his followers to pray with persistence.

Let's read these two stories and share what insights we come up with regarding our prayers and the important of perseverance.

Luke 11:1-13 and Luke 18:1-8

In Luke 11, why do you think Jesus included a reluctant neighbor in his story? Is he trying to describe what our Heavenly Father is like? or not like?

In Luke 18, we have another person in need and another person reluctant to grant her request.

What are some hints in this passage to confirm that Jesus is not saying our Heavenly Father is like him?

When was there a time (maybe it is right now) where you had to choose to be persistent in praying for something?

Were there any struggles that surfaced as you were praying and praying and praying?

Looking back, were there any positive benefits when you didn't get an answer from God sooner?

3. Perseverance in our prayers and daily lives is something God encourages throughout the Scriptures. Let's look at one last verse (Romans 5:1-5) that was mentioned last Sunday and share any final thoughts before we wrap up.

## **Wrapping Up:**

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days? Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for? Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?