



## No borders

 **Mark 7.24-37**

Where Jesus travels to an area that most Jews would avoid and heals a Gentile woman's daughter (most respectable Jewish men wouldn't even speak to a Gentile woman). He then goes on to heal a deaf man, in an unusual way. He tries to keep a low profile but everyone is talking about him.

Now read **Mark 7.24-37** see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

Jesus knew that his mission, first and foremost, was to the Jews; yet he was inclusive. He made time for this Gentile woman who was outside of the group of people he should normally associate with. The fact that he was travelling in this area at all, and speaking to a Gentile woman, would have been radical. Later, both Jesus and the man born deaf crossed the borders of what was socially acceptable, in order for the man to be healed (would you let someone spit on you and touch your tongue?!). Are we willing to step out of what is familiar and away from people we are comfortable with, in order to include everyone and follow God's prompting?



**Ask yourself:**  
 What would the world look like with no borders dividing languages, nations and cultures?



As you go back to school, college or work this week, pray each evening that God will help you to notice the outsiders – the people on the edge. Then, each day, make a conscious effort to include them, even if it's just to smile at them.



Match the language to the different words for Jesus. Jesus crosses every language, nation and culture.

- |         |        |
|---------|--------|
| Aramaic | يسوع   |
| Arabic  | Ciise  |
| Somali  | Iesu   |
| Italian | Yeshua |
| Welsh   | Gesù   |

## FIND A CONNECTION

Got anything in common with Einstein or a gold-medal-winning athlete? Well, maybe you have! Choose a celebrity – someone you feel is not like you at all. Look on the internet to find three things you have in common with that person. It's easy to have preconceived ideas about people but, when we really get to know others, we often discover that they're not what we expect or that we have more in common than we realise.

## WATCH



Jesus was a Jew and, in those days, Jews and Gentiles didn't mix. But Jesus travelled to where this Gentile woman lived, spoke to her and was willing to help her. Watch the first few minutes of the Zootopia clip at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jknyqafCVM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jknyqafCVM) in which all animals live together in harmony. Do you treat all people equally – even the people who aren't like you? What can we learn from spending time with people who aren't like us?



Play dominoes – either in a group or on your own. But instead of the same numbers having to touch each other, the aim is for different numbers to connect – no two numbers that are the same can touch. Can you use the whole pack?

**Holy Trinity & St Matthew's Church, Ronkswood**  
 Weekly Newsletter and Reflections Trinity 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021



If you were in church last Sunday, you will know that our plans have changed regarding the Harvest Supper in light of increased Covid infection rates. Instead of the supper we are now holding a Harvest Picnic at the County Park on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 1.00 p.m. Bring your own picnic, chairs or blankets so we can share this time of fellowship in the open air. Oh, and pray for good weather! We celebrate our Harvest Festival the following day at Church.



**All are welcome...**

Jesus' response to a persistent and determined outsider challenges our response to those who are different (Mark 7.24-30).

Last week's airlift from Kabul provoked widespread sympathy for those who were fortunate enough to escape and great concern has already been expressed for those left behind and how they will be treated by the new Taliban government. However, by no means all of those who have fled or are trying to flee have homes elsewhere. Many are Afghan nationals. How will they be treated as outsiders in a strange land. The

SyroPhoenician woman appears to have been a displaced person. She was certainly a gentile who would receive less sympathetic treatment from the Jewish people. Maybe she had faced hard treatment and that was why she was so quick to respond to Jesus in the way she did. It is worth reflecting on how we will respond to refugees who move into our street. The encounter between Jesus and the SyroPhoenician woman was a real encounter. Generalised sympathy is one thing. Active support is another.

As the Paralympic Games draw to a close once again, we have been inspired by the performances of athletes winning medals and moved by their stories. These are often stories of perseverance and determination where individuals have achieved much against appalling odds. In the Gospel reading Jesus rewards the SyroPhoenician woman's persistence and willingness to stand up to him. He commends these as positive attributes. As we find ourselves in a new phase of covid19 when it is unclear what the future will hold, it is important that we should be persistent and determined not least in prayers for healing.

Daily Readings for week commencing 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2021		
<b>Monday</b>	1 Chronicles 10: 1-11:9	Mark 9: 38-emd
<b>Tuesday</b>	1 Chronicles 13	Mark 10: 1-16
<b>Wednesday</b>	1 Chronicles 15: 1-16:3	Mark 10: 17-31
<b>Thursday</b>	1 Chronicles 17	Mark 10: 32-34
<b>Friday</b>	1 Chronicles 21: 1-22:1	Mark 10: 35-45
<b>Saturday</b>	1 Chronicles 22: 2-end	Mark 10: 46-end

**Pray for those in need...**Sally, Tristan, Mark, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy, Mandy, Joyce, Pete, Ian, Juliette and Nicki. **Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...**