

Where's Your Chair?

Mark 7 24-37



The Lord looses those that are bound; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.
Psalm 146:7-8

Praising:

Son of the Father, Lord of all creation,
come as our Saviour, Jesus friend of sinners,
grant us forgiveness, lift our downcast spirit,
heal us and save us.

Reading:

Mark 7:24-37

A woman begs for her daughter

In Tyre, Jesus efforts at anonymity and blending in to the background continue to fail hopelessly. In Jesus' reply to this woman, the Jews are represented as children, the Gentiles as dogs and the benefits of Jesus' ministry as the children's food. On the page, Jesus' words seem unwelcoming, dismissive and maybe even cruel. But her response gives us the

impression that there was actually something warm and inviting in what Jesus said. Perhaps it was the way he said it, but clearly this foreign, Gentile woman who in the religious culture of that day had no business even speaking to Jesus, sensed that the saving power he embodied was for her type too. In our day it's less about asserting our 'right' to approach God, and more about seeing the reason why we need God in the first place.

Listening:

Praying:

Like that mother Lord, we come to you in prayer

- for those who know too well that they have need, pain and trouble in their lives
- for those who have no sense that in Christ alone lie real answers and eternal aid
- for those who feel unworthy, beyond the pale, undeserving of God's love

Father: grant me an ever deeper sense that you love me no matter what, enough for me to show others that you love them too.
Amen

Doing:

Thursday, 12 November 2015