

December 18/19, 2004

Study Questions

The Good News About Jesus According to Mark

High Hopes

Mark 7:24-37

Pastor Andy MacFarlane

Opening Discussion

1. Have you ever been hurt in a relationship because of unspoken expectations? What happened?

What difference would it have made if hopes and expectations had been clear?

2. What is it like to be in the presence of someone with whom you do not know how to respond appropriately?

Bible Study

1. In Mark 7:24-30, how do you think you would have responded if you had been the woman? Why?

Are you surprised that Jesus referred to this woman as a dog? Why or why not?

2. The Bible declares that by nature we are sinners (Romans 5:12-14) and that our hearts are deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9). Why is that such a hard assessment to hear?

How do you think most people would respond upon hearing that assessment?

Why is it critical that we accept God's assessment of our lives?

3. Do you believe God can reveal His assessment of your life through Christian brothers and sisters? Why or why not?

4. In Mark 7:36, why do you think the crowd so blatantly disobeyed Jesus?

Given their kind words about Jesus in verse 37, how would you assess the spiritual condition of the crowd?

Do you know people in your sphere of influence that would fit into the spiritual condition of the crowd? How do you relate to such people?

5. Why do you think Jesus broke Jewish customs by ministering among the Gentiles?

What types of people do we, the church, tend to ignore or exclude? Why?

How do you think we can go about changing these customs?

Application

1. Are you getting God's assessment of your life on a regular basis? Are you spending time in His Word on a regular basis? If not, what changes do you need to make to your schedule so that you can be in God's Word regularly?

Do you have friends that speak truth into your life? Do you give your friends freedom to say difficult things to you?

2. Are there any areas of your life that are not submitted to God? If so, what would it mean for you to submit those areas to Him?

Why do you find it difficult to submit in those areas?

What steps do you need to take in order to grow in your understanding of God's goodness?

3. Are there any types of people that you avoid or purposely shut out of your life?

What do you think it will take for you to follow Jesus' example by moving towards all types of people for the sake of the Gospel?