

Mrk25 – **The Unaccepted Are Accepted – Mark 7:24-30**

Dave Shepardson, wordbymail.com

Do you **remember High-School?**

What **SOCIAL GROUP** were you in?

What **CLIQUE?**

What **SOCIAL STRATA** were you in?

In **1974** - In **Our Highschool** - the **Lines** were **clear**

The **SOSH'S** & the **JOCK'S** – they were in “**in-crowd**”
& they **seemed** to **run** the **High-School world**

Then **there** were the **STONER'S** –
who **ran** the **Anti-Social world**

& **then** there **were** the **DORK'S** & **NERD'S**
who **didn't feel** like they **fit in anywhere**

Do you **remember?**

Do you **remember** feeling **Unaccepted** or **Accepted?**

Well – it **didn't start** in **your high school** – or **mine**

It **probably started** somewhere
not long after the **Fall of Man**

But it was in Full-Swing in the Days of Jesus – that's for sure

& today - we're going to see – a Powerful Lesson

That Jesus taught his disciples (& us) on this matter

And we're going to see

How Jesus MADE – The Unaccepted – Accepted

Let's Pray

In our last message in Mark

we (hopefully) came to grips

with the fact

that we have the tendency – to BE HYPOCRITES

We watched Jesus – CALL OUT the Pharisee's in that Msg

For being more concerned with External Appearances

than with the Internal Purity of the heart

& there's a chance the Disciples were saying

“YEAH Jesus – Get ‘Em”

“Those 2-faced Religious Sosh's –

We're sure glad we're NOT like THEM”

I think there's a Chance
that's what the Disciples were thinking

Because Jesus took them – straight from that event
& walked them TWO DAYS

into the hardcore – UNACCEPTED –
“Other Side of the Tracks” Neighborhood

Maybe it was because - Jesus was
fed up with the Religious NONSENSE himself

But – MAYBE it was because

there was still a LESSON
the Disciples needed to Learn

& Maybe – there's still a lesson
you & I need to Learn TODAY – (on Unaccepted & Accepted)

So – After CALLING OUT
the HYPOCRISY of the Pharisees

Jesus takes the Disciples
DEEP into GENTILE LAND

To a place filled with people
who were completely UNACCEPTED by the Jews

People who were on the OUTSIDE
of every Religious & Social Group the Jews had

& IN THIS LAND of the UNACCEPTED

Jesus is going to see a level FAITH – he seldom saw
in those ACCEPTED people of Israel

& HIS MESSAGE - to his Disciples - & to us

is that Jesus is seeking TRUE FAITH - & A PURE HEART
from ALL PEOPLE

Jesus wants your HEART

He wants TRUE FAITH from you - &

He wants to TRANSFORM Your LIFE

Jesus Doesn't Care

what Social Strata or GROUP you're in

He Doesn't Care

what side of the TRACKS you're Living on

He Doesn't Care

if you're PART of some "Socially Accepted Crowd"

Jesus cares about ONE THING

& **one thing alone . . . he cares about YOU'RE HEART**

He **wants your heart - full of TRUE Faith**

& he **wants your Heart -PURE in All your Actions**

**THAT'S why – Our last message – We are HYPOCRITES
sets the stage – so well - for our message today**

Jesus is going to show his Disciples

that **they're not as far - from the Pharisee's - as they think**

& he's **going to PROVE to us – that IN CHRIST
The UNACCEPTED – become ACCEPTED**

Let's see it unfold

Mark 7:24 (NLT)

24 Then Jesus left Galilee (after the 'Hypocrite' scolding) and went north to the region of Tyre . . .

Tyre (& Sidon, where he's also headed)

are **north-west of the Galilee area –**

they're on the coast – in what is today LEBANON

This was strictly a NON-JEWISH - NON-COOL

& Completely UN-ACCEPTED Area

& Jesus says – “*Perfect, that’s just where I need to be*”

& so he leaves the Galilee - & heads to where
the Religious Elite - would Never Go

& If you FEEL today – that you are UNACCEPTED
in some Social or Religious Group

Aren’t you glad Jesus purposely LEFT the ACCEPTED people
& came to the UNACCEPTED Side of the Tracks?

I’m REALLY glad he did – Because if he hadn’t
He would have NEVER Found - ME

Jesus went – to the UNACCEPTED side of the tracks
To ACCEPT the UNACCEPTED

& to Teach His Disciples - & US – to do the SAME

& so we cont – in Mark 7:24(b)-25 (NLT)

24(b) . . . He didn’t want anyone to know which house he was staying in, but he couldn’t keep it a secret. (this is still Jesus just managing the “crowd problem”)

25 Right away a woman who had heard about him came and fell at his feet. Her little girl was possessed by an evil spirit,

This was a **Gentile woman**
Born outside "**the chosen ones**"

She was **Living** on the **wrong side** of the **Tracks**

UNACCEPTED & **Unwelcomed**
by **those** of the **Religious** "**In-Crowd**"

She had **heard about Jesus** - - **BUT**

She had **NOTHING TO PROVE** – To **Anybody**

She had **NO RELIGIOUS IMAGE** to **Keep** up

She was **JUST DESPERATE** for a **Miracle** in her life

& **right now** - she is **BREAKING**
All kinds of **Religious** & **Social rules**

She was an **UNACCEPTED intruder**
storming into the Disciples **ACCEPTED "Inner-Circle"**

To **really understand** this

we **have** to read **Matthew's** Account
of this **same moment**

Because he **adds** some **Crucial Insight** here

(same event) - Matthew 15:22–23 (NLT)

22 A Gentile woman (Lit – a Canaanite woman (worse) *who lived there came to him, pleading, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! For my daughter is possessed by a demon that torments her severely.”*

23 But Jesus gave her no reply, not even a word. (wait for it . . .)
Then his disciples urged him (ESV - they begged him) ***to send her away.*** ***“Tell her to go away,” they said. “She is bothering us with all her begging.”***

The **Disciples** – **BEGGED Jesus** – to **send** this **woman** away
BECAUSE she was **BEGGING him** for a **miracle**

Guys - **THIS** is the **REAL WORLD - TODAY**

“Come on Jesus, she’s not really one of us, she doesn’t fit in here, can’t you just get her to go away – because she’s really bothering us . . . while were trying to be Christians here”

THIS is a **VERY REAL Response** - today
Both **OUTSIDE** - & **INSIDE** the **church**

Which **MIGHT BE WHY**

Jesus is going to **teach** this **lesson**
THREE TIMES – **Back to Back** to his **Disciples**

Now - Let's Go Back to our Text in Mark Ch 7

So - This **UNACCEPTED** Woman

From an **UNACCEPTED** Social **Group**

as **UN-ACCEPTEDLY** **fallen** at the **Feet of Jesus**

& the **Disciples** have **let Jesus** know – **This is UNACCEPTABLE**

& we continue – in Mark 7:26 (NLT)

26 and she begged him to cast out the demon from her daughter .

..

She **KNOWS** – **Full Well**

she is **UNACCEPTED** in this **Social/Religious Group**

But – **She Doesn't Care!**

She is **PRESSING THRU**

all the **Social & Religious Barriers**

Because she desperately **NEEDS JESUS!**

Now – **We** have to **Listen closely**

To the **Response** from **Jesus** to this **woman**

At FIRST – It **Seems** a Bit **Out of Character** for **Jesus**

But – if have **just** a **little bit**
of a **cynical nature** – **LIKE I DO**

You can **easily HEAR**
the “**Tongue in Cheek**” type **response** here

To say something “**Tongue in Cheek**” **means**

We’re **saying something** that’s **not supposed** to be
taken at “**Face Value**” – (not taken **literally**)

We’re saying **ONE THING** –
but we’re **really pointing** – to **SOMETHING ELSE**

& **I think** the **Response** of **Jesus** here
Is **kinda** – “**Tongue In Cheek**”

I think He’s **driving home**
a **Critical Lesson** – to his **Disciples**

By **APPEARING**
to **JOIN THEM** - in **their view**

That this woman is **UNACCEPTED**
in their “**ACCEPTED Group**”

So – **LISTEN** for the
“**Tongue in Cheek**” response

with **just** a little **SARCASM mixed in** (from **Jesus**)

26(b) . . . Since she was a Gentile (Lit a Canaanite), born in Syrian Phoenicia,

27 Jesus told her, “First I should feed the children—my own family, the Jews. It isn’t right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs.”

WHOA – That’s **HARD-CORE** – Right?

I’ve heard people try to “**Walk this Back**”

“Uh, you know, Jesus didn’t really MEAN to call her, you know, a dog. Because that would be politically INCORRECT”

Listen, Please

This is exactly **how** the **Disciples FELT** about this **woman**

& the **Woman KNEW**

this is exactly **how** the **Disciples FELT** about **her**

Jesus is just **putting** - **ALL THE UGLY**

Right on **The Table**

SO - IF - Jesus is kinda
“**Playing To**” the **Disciple’s view**

that this **woman** is **UNACCEPTED**
in **their “ACCEPTED Group”**

Then **isn’t** there a **CHANCE**
that **Jesus** is just **showing them**

that their **own hearts**
are **very similar** to the **PHARISEES**

Who Jesus just **TORE INTO**

for **having** a **SIMILAR Perspective**
about **people** - who were **UNACCEPTED** in **Their World?**

MAN – I LOVE how **Jesus**
gets these **life-changing points** across

By the **time** Jesus is **DONE** with **The Disciples**

There is **NO LONGER** going to be **ANY**
UNACCEPTED or **ACCEPTED groups** in their **minds**

& maybe – what's even **MORE INCREDIBLE**
is that this woman **PLAYS ALONG** with Jesus

She is going to use **Jesus' OWN LOGIC**
& Even his **OWN WORDS**

to **RESPOND** to His
Who's UNACCEPTED - & **Who's ACCEPTED** – Line of thought

Mark 7:28 (NLT)

28 She replied, "That's true, Lord, but even the dogs under the table are allowed to eat the scraps from the children's plates."

Come on – this is an **AWESOME answer** from this woman

She Accepts how the "**Insiders**" feel about her
But it doesn't matter

Because she's not trying to "**BE ACCEPTED**"
By the "**ACCEPTED GROUP**"

She **ONLY wants** to be **ACCEPTED** – **BY JESUS!**

She **Doesn't CARE** whether she's
INSIDE or **OUTSIDE** - the **Disciple's** "**Group**"

She **just needs** a **MIRACLE** from **Jesus**
& the rest of **this non-sense** - **DOESN'T MATTER** to her

& - because She's There – Driven by her FAITH ALONE
Jesus Completely ACCEPTS HER

No Matter WHO She is
Or WHERE She has Come from

Mark 7:29-30 (NLT)

29 “Good answer!” he said (Mat 15:28 - “Great is your faith”). “Now go home, for the demon has left your daughter.”

30 And when she arrived home, she found her little girl lying quietly in bed, and the demon was gone.

The UNACCEPTED becomes ACCEPTED
Thru her FAITH in Jesus - ALONE

& I believe this is a HUGE TURNING POINT
For the Disciples

As Jesus LEAVES – the ACCEPTED in Israel

& GOES to ACCEPT those who were UNACCEPTED

But - ONE LESSON is not enough

It seems to take the Disciples THREE TIMES to Learn

So Jesus REPEATS this Scene - TWICE

In the following two Sections in Mark

NOTE in your **Bible** – **The Section** that **starts** in **Mark 7:31**

Here – **Jesus takes** the **Disciples** up to **SIDON**
Even FURTHER into **UNACCEPTED** territory

& **Mark records** another **Miracle** there
among the **UNACCEPTED** people in **SIDON**

& - **at the end** of **THAT Miracle**

We read – In **Mark 7:37** – about **these people**
who **were** the **UNACCEPTED** people

Mark 7:37 (NLT)

***37 They were completely amazed and said again and again,
“Everything he does is wonderful. He even makes the deaf to hear
and gives speech to those who cannot speak.”***

They were **AMAZED** – **Certainly** by **his Miracles**

But **I think** – **Also** – **They** were **AMAZED**

That **Jesus CAME** to the **UNACCEPTED**
To **ACCEPT them Completely** - by their **FAITH ALONE**

& So **then** – After **LEAVING Tyre & Sidon** → →

Jesus makes his way AROUND the top of the Galilee
Through what is now the Golon Heights

So that he can get to THE DECAPOLIS

Which is the 10 GREEK Cities - on the East shore of the Galilee –
Near were the Gadarenes is

MORE – UNACCEPTED People

& THEN – in the 1st Section of Mark Ch 8
(Note your Bible – at Mark 8:1)

There – Jesus Feeds 4,000
Much LIKE he earlier fed the 5,000

but THIS TIME – He does it
in the UNACCEPTED GENTILE Territory of The Decapolis

& so – As Mark often does

here – Back-to-Back-to-Back
Mark shows THREE MIRACLES – in THREE different places

ALL Among the UNACCEPTED People

To SHOW - in every case
That Jesus - ACCEPTS The UNACCEPTED - (*so we must too*)

Obviously - the **BIGGEST LESSON** here is

The **UNACCEPTED** are **ACCEPTED** – **By Jesus**

Jesus will **Gladly LEAVE**

those who - **feel they are ACCEPTED**

In **order** to **reach**

those who - **feel they are UNACCEPTED**

& **Jesus** is obviously **Teaching his Disciples** - *(Including US)*

That we **MUST DO** the **SAME THING**

So – if you **FEEL today**

that **you** are **in** some **UNACCEPTED group**

COME TO JESUS

He will **ACCEPT you** – **JUST AS you Are**

But – **BE READY** - **Because**

He **WILL NOT LEAVE YOU** - **Just as you Are**

He will **ACCEPT YOU** & **RECEIVE YOU**

Just as you Are

But then - he will **Begin**

to **Miraculously Transform** your life

Which is Exactly WHAT you NEED

No Matter WHERE you are At Today

Jesus Christ Wants to TRANSFORM your life

For your TOMORROW - & for your ETERNITY

If you will Truly Put your FAITH in Jesus

He will begin to TAKE OVER your OLD LIFE

Whether you feel ACCEPTED - or UNACCEPTED

It DOESN'T MATTER

Because Jesus ACCEPTS – The UNACCEPTED

Put your FAITH In Jesus Christ

TRUST Him as your LORD – SURRENDER to Him

& Become – a Truly Accepted – Child of God

For ETERNITY

Let's Pray

CHAIRS AROUND the CROSS

Come ONLY with Questions (or for Prayer)

about THIS MESSAGE