



Sermon Series: Mark: The Power

Sermon Title: When It Seems God Is Ignoring You

Date: 10/26/2025

Big Idea: When you bring your needs to God, be patient for His answer.

Have you ever prayed and wondered if God was ignoring you? That's the emotional tension behind the encounter between Jesus and the Syrophenician woman in **Mark 7:24–30** and **Matthew 15:21–28**. Her daughter was tormented by a demon, and though she came to Jesus desperate for help, His first response appeared cold, even dismissive. But behind that apparent silence and delay was deep compassion and divine purpose. This story reminds us that God's seeming silence often hides His providence - and when we bring our needs to Him, He is already working for our good.

1. God Sees Your Circumstances

Jesus traveled nearly fifty miles north to the Gentile region of Tyre and Sidon. This detour was not random. It was the providential hand of the Father guiding His Son to meet one woman whose faith would shine as an example for generations. **Mark 7:24** notes that Jesus "could not be hidden."

Providence means God doesn't just rule over creation abstractly - He orders the details of our lives with purpose and care. **Genesis 45:5–8** shows this clearly in Joseph's story: though betrayed by his brothers, Joseph recognized that "God sent me before you to preserve life." What others see as coincidence or misfortune, God uses as direction. Likewise, our steps are guided by His unseen hand. **Psalms 139:9–10** assures us that no matter how far we travel, His hand leads and holds us fast. Nothing about our situation is hidden from Him. You are where you are on purpose.

2. God Hears Your Cries

When the Canaanite woman cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David," (**Matthew 15:22**), Jesus at first said nothing. The silence must have

been crushing. Even the disciples urged Him to send her away. Yet Jesus was not being cruel - He was drawing her faith out into the open. His statement about not throwing the children's bread to the dogs (**Mark 7:27**) sounded harsh, but it reflected the order of His mission: first to Israel, then to the Gentiles.

Still, her persistence broke through. She refused to be discouraged, replying, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." (**Matthew 15:27**). That bold humility captured Jesus' heart. Her example reminds us that apparent delays in prayer are not divine indifference - they are invitations to deeper dependence. **Psalms 139:4** tells us that before a word is on our tongue, God already knows it. He hears every sigh and whisper. Sometimes His answers come as "yes," sometimes "no," and often "not yet." But silence is never absence; it is the space where faith grows.

3. God Wisely Seeks to Build Your Trust

When Jesus finally spoke, His response overflowed with admiration: "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." (**Matthew 15:28-30**). Her daughter was healed instantly. What seemed at first like rejection was actually refinement. God often allows tension and waiting to develop perseverance, trust, and deeper joy in His eventual answer.

Jesus later taught this principle in **Luke 11:9-10**: "Ask, and it will be given; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened." The grammar of these words implies continuous action - keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking. Faith isn't proved by instant results but by persistent reliance. The Syrophenician woman modeled that kind of faith: humble, bold, and unwavering.

God's providence guided Jesus to a foreign land to meet one desperate mother. That same providence still governs your life today. When it seems He's ignoring you, remember - He's already working behind the scenes. Wait patiently. He sees, He hears, and He's building something beautiful in you through the waiting.

Discussion Questions:

- When have you felt like God was silent or slow to respond to your prayers? How did that experience affect your faith?
- What does the story of the Syrophoenician woman teach us about persistence in prayer and humility before God?
- How does understanding God's providence - His purposeful control over all things - change the way you interpret life's delays or detours?
- Which of the three truths ("He sees, He hears, He builds") do you most need to remember right now, and why?
- How can you encourage someone else who feels ignored or forgotten by God to keep trusting and praying?