

## St. John's EBCs, Everyday Bible Conversations!

*EBC 3, 2, 1! – On Location in 2024! Leading to Worship Sunday, September 8, 2024*

### Reading: Mark 7:24-37

EBC focuses on bringing the Bible into our Everyday Lives, emphasizing God's Everyday presence by finding connections in our physical world! EBC also has a video component on the St. John's website and St. John's You Tube channel. This week's video invites a furry friend to think about God curvy, purposeful path Click here: <https://youtu.be/zRfKtsER-dg> Welcome to this week's EBC 3,2,1! Three points, two questions, and one action step!

### Three Points

- Jesus went to Tyre, a "foreign" land north of Galilee, where he went into a house. The Bible tells us he did not want anyone to know he was there.
- A Syrophenician woman asked for healing for her daughter. Jesus responded seemingly harshly: "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." The woman persisted: "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." (Mark 7:27-28) Then Jesus removed the demon!
- Next, Jesus returned from Tyre toward Galilee, by way of Sidon (which is actually further north, in the wrong direction from Galilee!), and healed a deaf man with a speech impediment. The more Jesus ordered them to tell no one, the more people they told.

### Two Questions

- Why is Jesus seemingly harsh to the faithful woman? Does her retort make Jesus change his mind? Did Jesus always know she would respond as she did, so that the interaction was more demonstrative for others? Did Jesus always know he was sent to save everyone (not just the Jews), or did his own understanding grow? Most broadly, is this a story of Jesus' humanity, his divinity, or both?
- Why does Mark specifically describe Jesus heading back in the wrong direction? Is it a "mistake?" Was there a practical reason (like a route along the Jordan River)? Did Jesus know he was going to meet the deaf man? Are you okay resting in God's mysteries?

### Action Step

- Don't always look for the straightest path in God's purpose for you! Curves are expected, even if they are not explained.

*Don't like these questions? Do these verses say something different to you? Great! What it is?*

And as always, you are encouraged to find a friend (or two or many) and take an EBC coffee break! Find 15-25 minutes somewhere in the week and share your faith. Have fun finding God this week in your Everyday Life!