

## Session 14

### 'HEALING: SEEING GRACE'



### Reading: Mark 7:24-30

#### INTRODUCTION:

Assertive women sometimes get a bad reputation. Claire talked about an assertive Christian woman who had a profound impact on her faith.

- Are there assertive women who have had a positive impact on you?
- Can you give examples of assertive women in the public eye who have used their strong character for good?

#### WORD:

Take a little time to read the bible passage for today:

- What stands out to you?
- What challenges you?
- What is significant about what Jesus is doing?

This is a challenging passage. Jesus' words appear cruel.

1. What additional understanding does the context of this encounter bring? Look especially at chapters 6-8
2. How do you interpret Jesus' initial response to the Syrophaenician woman, as he seems to dismiss her request? What does it reveal about his ministry and his mission?
3. Some scholars argue that Jesus' response to the Syrophaenician woman reflects a moment of growth or a deliberate teaching opportunity. Do you agree with this perspective? How does this interpretation affect our understanding of Jesus' humanity and divinity?
4. The encounter between Jesus and the Syrophaenician woman highlights the tension between Jesus' primary mission to Israel and his concern for all people. How can we reconcile this tension in our own understanding of Jesus' ministry and its implications for our lives as Christians?
5. What role does faith play in the healing of the Syrophaenician woman's daughter? How does her faith compare to the faith demonstrated by other individuals in the Gospels? What does this teach us about the nature of faith and its relationship with miracles?

**PRAYER:** Jesus commends the Syrophaenician woman's faith by granting her request. How does this reflect God's grace and mercy? How can we apply this understanding of God's response to our own lives and prayer requests?

**ACTION:** How does the interaction between the Syrophaenician woman and Jesus challenge our own prejudices and biases? What can we learn from this encounter about our attitudes toward people of different cultures, ethnicities, or social backgrounds?