



v24 Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret.

Why does he hide himself?

- ❖ Here— To rest/ invest in his disciples.
- ❖ Touches on our experience with God as hidden: silence, invisibility, incomprehensibility.

God's hiddenness can be a reason for doubt: The Hiddenness Argument. Atheism.

If God is real his existence would be more obvious. If Loving—> easier to know.
But what if there is another reason for God's hiddenness?
We've seen Jesus doing this all through Mark. Why!?

Mark 4:22 For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. 23 If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear."

What is hidden meant to be found! God doesn't hide from us. Hides FOR US.
Because in hiding he gives us the gift of persevering faith and personal faith.

FOCUS. Through this woman and this deaf man we learn to persevere and get personal with God.

PERSEVERING FAITH. v25 In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. 26 The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. 27 "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

This woman is the first Gentile (non-Jew) to come to Jesus.
WHAT's with v27 !? Hardest parable we will see Jesus deliver.
Jesus' goodness seems hidden behind what appears to be rejection & insult.
Jesus tests our faith to strengthen our capacity to persevere.

James 1:2 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

Perseverance is the ability to hold onto the goodness of God in the face of every obstacle that wants to make us quit.

- Our pride—> I don't need God.
- Our self-pity —> God doesn't care about me
- Our problem—> my problem is too big... too small... too whatever.

Jesus doesn't test us to break us but to train us to break THROUGH.
Jesus doesn't lead us into dead ends to destroy us—> deliver us.

Watch how this woman responds! — v28 "Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."29 Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." 30 She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Whoa!!! Not only does she not give up... she blows Jesus' mind!

Matthew 15:28 Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith!

Jesus' parable conveys both the PRIORITY/PREJUDICE of Israel.

Gen 12:2-3. I will bless you... and ALL people will be blessed through you.

Persevering Faith BREAKSTHRU the barriers that seem to hide God

1. Jairus/ Death. Disciples/ Storm. Pharisees/ Sinners. Woman/ Outsiders

These barriers aren't meant to hide God from us but reveal him to us.

- Our faith is pressed to bring out the glory of His goodness.

Woman's Faith in Jesus: Outsiders become insiders. No one gets this!

Woman's Faith in Jesus: Crumbs become feasts. Disciples don't get it!

There's more than enough for everyone.

Tim Keller — "She's not saying, 'Lord give me what I deserve on the basis of MY goodness.' She's saying, 'Give me what I don't deserve on the basis of YOUR goodness— and i need it now!'"

PERSONAL FAITH. 31 Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. 32 There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. 33 After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears.

Jesus does 6 things: takes him aside. fingers in ear. spitting. touches his tongue. sighs. speaks a word.

he took him aside away from the crowd.

Jesus uses friends in our life but we have to let things get personal with Jesus if we are going to know Him.

Jesus won't let us use our friends, family as a buffer.

Jesus will remain hidden to us until we're willing to let it get personal.

Jesus brings this man in close. Gets personal. Sign Language.

It's here in the personal moment... the man begins to hear Jesus' voice.

"Ephphatha" Aramaic. why? Emphasizing that to hear God in our life we have to let Jesus get personal with us.

James 4:8 Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.

You are as close to God as you want to be.

Jesus died on the cross. Removing every barrier between us and God.

But we have to persevere— and seek, ask, knock— The door will be opened!

Let it get personal— open our hearts to Him.