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Central Congregational Church  
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”  
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### Good News for All

Mark 7:24-37

Series: Getting In on the Good News  
The Gospel of Jesus Christ According to Mark

### Central Passage

**Mark 7:24–37 (NIV)** — **24** 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. **25** 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.” **28** “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. **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. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue. **34** He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, “Ephphatha!” (which means “Be opened!”). **35** At this, the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. **36** Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. **37** People were overwhelmed with amazement. “He has done everything well,” they said. “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

**Central Thought:** We get in on the Good News when we are willing to follow Jesus to unfamiliar places and engage unlikely people at inopportune times with compassion and discretion.

### Empowered by the Spirit of Jesus Christ...

- ❖ We can learn to see interruptions as opportunities for ministry. (vs. 24)

**Mark 6:30–34 (NIV)** — **30** The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. **31** Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” **32** So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. **33** But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. **34** **When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.**

- ❖ We can fearlessly engage people of different cultures and convictions. (vs. 25-30)

**1 Kings 17:8–9 (NIV)** — **8** Then the word of the LORD came to him: **9** “Go at once to Zarephath **in the region of Sidon** and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.”

- ❖ We can be deeply compassionate without seeking publicity. (vs. 31-37)

**Matthew 6:3–4 (NIV)** — **3** But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

**Matthew 5:16 (NIV)** — **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.