

3. Describe what is different about this healing from earlier healings?
4. Are you willing to accept Jesus' timing and methods of spiritual and physical healing in your life?
5. What does reading this passage along side of Isa. 35:5-6 tell you about Jesus?
6. Jesus asked those watching to tell no one? Why did they disobey? Considering that you have no prohibition about telling others about what Jesus is doing in your life, do you notice what He is doing, are you astonished beyond measure, do you zealously proclaim it?

Sixth Day: Re-read Mark 7

1. Look at the interaction between Jesus and his disciples in this chapter. What positive traits do you see about the disciples? What negative ones do you see? How does Jesus respond to the negative traits?
2. Describe the people in this passage who had the least faith in Jesus?
3. Describe the people in this passage who had the most faith in Jesus?
4. What is surprising about the descriptions in question 28 and 29?



First Day: Review your notes from Mark 6:30–56

1. What stood out to you from the sermon that you found helpful?
2. What from Sunday school helped you understand the passage better?

Second Day: Read Mark 7:1–13

1. Read verses 2–5. Why are the Pharisees criticizing Jesus' disciples?
2. Who are the elders?
3. What source did Jesus use to counter the scribes' criticism?
4. According to verses 6 through 8, give two reasons Jesus calls the Pharisees hypocrites?
5. Can you think of anywhere in your own life where you are over-protective for outward appearances of godliness, but inwardly neglectful of the spirit of truth that a tradition represents?
6. In your own words, summarize the example Jesus gives of one pharisaical tradition that voids the Word of God.

7. Read verses 8 and 9, and verse 13. What does Jesus say can happen when people hold too tightly to man-made tradition?

8. According to Jesus what are some of the dangerous of human traditions? Can you think of any way that you use human traditions or twist God's law to excuse your own selfishness?

Third Day: Read Mark 7:14–23

1. Why would Jesus' statements in verse 14 have been hard for the disciples to understand causing them to ask Jesus more questions in private?

2. What is significant about verse 18?

3. According to this passage, list what defiles a man and where do these things come from?

4. Read Isaiah 29:13–16 and Jeremiah 17:9–10? Using these passages give a Biblical description of the human heart—the center of your being, your mind, emotions, and will?

5. When the stresses of life squeeze you on every side, what do they squeeze out of your heart?

6. How can you care for your heart's desperately wicked condition so that when tough times come, the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22), and not the fruit of your natural heart is squeezed out? As an extra challenge, try to use Scripture to answer this question.

Fourth Day: Read Mark 7:24–30

1. Re-read Mark 3:8. Tyre and Sidon was a Greek, gentile region with some resettled Jewish residents. What is Jesus doing there? What does this incident foreshadow for the disciples? (hint: refer to Mark 7:27, Mark 13:10, and Mark 14:9).

2. Can you think of any reasons for why Jesus initially seemed to ignore the Syrophenician woman's request when verses 24, 29, and 30 makes it obvious that he cared about the woman and her daughter?

3. The Syrophenician woman cared so much about her daughter that she was willing to seek Jesus out even though this was not culturally acceptable. Are you living out a persistent faith in Christ for the spiritual healing of your family even when it is uncomfortable?

4. Are your intercessions for your loved ones marked by humility and faith?

5. In the past how have you responded to Jesus' initial and intentional delays to your prayers? In light of this passage, how will you respond today?

Fifth Day: Read Mark 7:31–37

1. What problem did the man from the Decapolis have?

2. For what reasons did Jesus take the man aside from the crowd?

