

**Sermon Notes – November 23, 2014**  
**“The Gospel for the Dogs”**  
**Mark 7:24-30**  
**Pastor Bill Hoffman**

Setting: See parallel passage in Matthew 15:21-28 for more details and a different angle.

- How might we see what Jesus does here in relation to what he taught in the section immediately preceding?
- Why would it have been thought unusual for Jesus to be in this area? To be speaking with this woman?

The offense: Setting aside for a moment Jesus' reference to dogs, what is his point in verse 27?

- Who are the “children” to whom he refers?
- This sounds like something we think Jesus shouldn't say.
- What are some possible explanations that might soften his comparing this woman to a dog?
- To the extent that those explanations don't work, what do you think and feel about Jesus' words here?
- Have you ever been offended by some-thing the Lord says about you – for example, that you are an undeserving sinner?

Response: The woman does not argue with Jesus' depiction of her as a dog.

- What does she want from Jesus and why does she expect that might grant her request?
- What do you see that shows the woman's humility, desperation, and persistence?
- How does Jesus then respond to the woman?
- What does his response show about Jesus' character and his regard for the woman, and for the dogs?