

**Sermon Notes – October 25, 2015**  
**“Personal Relationship with God?”**

**Mark 7:24-30**

**Pastor Bill Hoffman**

**Some lenses through which the Christian faith is seen:**

- What someone believes intellectually about God/Jesus.
- How a person behaves in terms of personal and/or social morality.
- As a relationship with God through faith in Jesus.

**The emphasis in *The Jesus Creed* on loving God and others as we follow Jesus would imply the primacy of relationship.**

- What do you find encouraging about this?
- Frustrating?
- Confusing?

**Notice the Syro-Phoenician woman does not argue with Jesus’ referring to her as a “dog.”**

- What does she want from Jesus?
- Why does she seem to expect he might grant her request?

**Looking at the passage in terms of Scot McKnight’s “three friends of faith,” describe the woman’s faith in terms of:**

- Her mind: what does she believe about Jesus?
- Her body: what does she do with respect to Jesus?
- Her heart: what is her core attitude and feeling toward Jesus and what she wants from him?

**Think about your own faith in/relationship with Jesus in terms of these “three friends”: mind, body, and heart.**

- In which of these is your faith strongest?
- Weakest?
- Make it an object of persistent prayer that the Lord would grow you in each of these dimensions of faith.
- Consider asking another person to regularly pray for you about this.