

RADIATE, PART 7
CROSSING BORDERS

Mark 7:24-37; Matthew 15:22-28

*Jesus crossed all kinds of borders with his grace,
and he wants his followers to do the same.*

Cross the CULTURAL borders to interact with broken outsiders. (7:24-30)

A Gentile woman makes a surprising and desperate request of Jesus, a Jewish rabbi.

Jesus is giving this woman—and his disciples—a critical test (cf. Matt 15:21-28).

Only the hardest of hearts would be unmoved by this woman's plight.

Jesus creatively exposes his disciples' prejudices against women and Gentiles.

Jesus expertly pulls out of the woman the virtues of humility, faith, and perseverance.

Humility: "I accept that I don't have a place at the table; I *am* unclean."

Faith: "I am not coming to you on the basis of my own goodness but yours; you *are* generous."

Perseverance: "I love my daughter deeply, and I will not let you go until you bless me!"

Sometimes the outsiders know better than the insiders how wide God's mercy really is.

The woman's daughter is healed without any words or actions by Jesus.

Jesus is portrayed here as a new Elijah, serving a Gentile woman in Tyre who has a needy child.

Cross the COMMUNICATION borders to interact with broken outsiders. (7:31-37)

A deaf man with a speech impediment is brought to Jesus by local men.

Communication with such a man likely would be difficult, laborious, and frustrating.

Jesus preserves the man's dignity by taking him away from the crowd for personal, private interaction.

Jesus displays great sensitivity in speaking a form of sign language so the man knows what's going on.

The "sigh" of Jesus indicates that he is personally invested in the healing and wholeness of this man.

The man is healed with a word and multiple actions by Jesus.

Jesus is portrayed here as the fulfillment of the messianic anticipation of Isaiah 35:4b-6a.