

Sermon Study Guide – August 20th, 2023

"God Wants a Church that... Offers a Product to All"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ Have you ever been “church shopping”? What have you looked for in a church? What brought you here to Grace?
- ◆ It’s easy for churches to say “all are welcome”, but does that always happen? What gets in the way of it? Is it really possible for a church to “offer a product to all”?

2) Today’s Message: Matthew 15:21-28

²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.” ²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.” ²⁵ The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said. ²⁶ He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” ²⁷ “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

3) What does God want you to hear today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today’s sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What’s the law?)

How does today’s sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What’s the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:



Answer the following questions if it helps you follow the sermon...

1. Where does our sermon text take place? Who lived there? Would they typically follow a teacher like Jesus? Why or why not?
2. This woman in our sermon text does the opposite... why?
3. In what way(s) do churches become limited only to certain people?
4. What product do all people need? Therefore, how can a church truly offer something “for all”?
5. Why is “church shopping” not like any other kind of shopping? What does it look for, and what determines if it is a success?
6. Why should you go to Grace Lutheran Church?

4) Taking it Home:

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week's truths:

Monday: *review* Is. 56:1-8, Ep. 2:13-22

Tuesday: *review* Psalm 86

Wednesday: Isaiah 42

Thursday: Isaiah 49

Friday: Romans 4-5

Saturday: *review* Matthew 15:21-28