

Sermon Study Guide – October 7th, 2018:

Today's Focus – "God Wants a Church for All People"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ As we begin our new series, "Church Shopping with God", what do you look for in a church? What must a church have?
- ◆ What makes a church a "Church for All People"? Do attendance or diversity alone determine if a church truly is this kind of church? How can a church best serve all people?

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, 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 know 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:



Feel free to answer the following questions to help you follow the sermon...

1. Though “church” is not mentioned in our text, how does our sermon text relate to church? How was church viewed back then?
2. Does Christ consider “church” to be for “all people”? Yet, how does include (or even exclude!) this woman?
3. Explain the following statements which we will “fill in” during the sermon:
⇒ *A church that is for all people must take its _____ seriously.*

⇒ *A church that is for all people must take its _____ seriously.*
4. Why are God’s thoughts on church so needed in our world? What does he offer that’s different and better than many churches offer?

4) Taking it Home:

Consider the following as you go about your week:

- ◆ Some churches emphasize Christ like we talked about today, but not every week in worship. Instead, this is emphasized more rarely, such as in membership classes or during special, unique services (e.g. Christmas or Easter). Is this ideal? Not? Why or why not?
- ◆ Once a church takes Jesus as Savior seriously, it can truly be a church for all. How does that affect other things a church does, such as music? Style of worship? Programs? Friendliness? Service times? Etc.

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

Monday: *review* Is. 56:1-7, Gal. 3:21-29

Thursday: Colossians 1:15-29

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 1:10-2:5

Friday: Colossians 3:1-17

Wednesday: Psalm 66

Saturday: *review* Matt. 15:21-28