



The Right Kind of Faith

Mark 7:24-30

Part 33

1/03/21

For those of you who follow NBA basketball, perhaps you watched or heard about the impressive performance this past Wednesday by the Boston Celtics Jaylen Brown. He scored a career high, 42 points.

Listen to how one writer explains what unfolded in an article entitled, ***It was the night Jaylen Brown silenced his doubters.*** “*It was the Jaylen Brown Show and there was no stopping him. Runners, step-back jumpers, spot up three's, fadeaways, three-quarter court bounce passes for transition buckets. A variety of moves and all of them were successful for Brown on Wednesday night in the Celtics runaway 126-109 win vs Memphis Grizzlies*” (<https://www.radio.com/weei/sports/celtics/it-was-the-night-jaylen-brown-silenced-his-doubters>).

After seeing what Jaylen Brown accomplished you could rightly say, he had “*The Right Kind of Moves.*” You see, in basketball, a player’s moves matter. A player desires to dribble well, jump well, pass well, shoot well, defend well, and the list goes on and on. A player with “*the right kind of moves*” can accomplish much. Both individually, as well as for their team. Likewise, a coach desires a player with “*the right kind of moves.*”

Yet when it comes to faith, the things that matter not just in this lifetime, but all eternity, having “*the right kind of moves*” will not suffice. Jesus is not looking for the “*the right kind of moves,*” but “*the right kind of faith.*” This morning, for the next few moments, I want to lay four truths on your heart in a message entitled, “*The Right Kind of Faith.*”

I. (vs. 25-26) Who she was

Thus far, throughout Mark’s Gospel, much of Jesus’ ministry has centered around the Sea of Galilee. Here Jesus makes his way about 50 miles northwest to the “*Gentile territory of ancient Phoenicia*” (MacArthur, J. (2015). [Mark 1–8](#) (p. 365). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers).

Jesus went to the region of Tyre. Some translations render this Tyre and Sidon. And just like every other place Jesus traveled, He went there for a purpose. The Bible says, “*He entered a house, He wanted no one to know of it.*”

This reminds me of the time Jesus traveled across the Sea of Galilee with His disciples.

“³⁷ *And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.* ³⁸ *But He (Jesus) was in the stern, asleep on a pillow*” (Mark 4:37-38).

Why was Jesus sleeping then and why did He not want anyone to know of His presence in Tyre?

He was tired and needed rest. And once again we see Jesus’ humanity.

Although Jesus was the God-man (100% man 100% God, He was confined to a human body, just like you.

He needed Food, He needed Water, and He needed Physical rest. Why? because his physical flesh lacked physical strength.

It’s easy to overlook the fact that Jesus needed time to rest. I’ve stated this before and will do so again, if Jesus needed time to rest, how much more so do you?

I’m going to be real with you! This time of quarantine, will wear you slap out! Don’t equate quarantine to rest. Quarantine does not equal rest. Some of you will say, “*Well, I’ve*

been in quarantine, I've gotten plenty of rest." Well come over to my house and hang out! Son it's wide open!

But here, we see that Jesus needed time to rest. So do I, and so do you. But this wasn't the time for Jesus to rest, for it was impossible for Him to be hidden [from the public].

You see, I believe at this specific time, there was someone who needed Jesus more than Jesus needed physical rest.

This someone was a woman. Well, this would have been the first of many strikes against her. Women were looked down upon during this time. Jewish men were so caught up in these manmade laws that they would not even speak with their mother, sister, daughter, or wife in public places. And more than that, it would have been unheard of for a Jewish rabbi to carry on a public conversation with a woman.

Notice what else we learn about her. Not only was she a woman, she living in a Gentile land. The Bible says that she was "*a Gentile, of the Syrophenician race.*" This was the second strike against her.

There was war, strife, and chaos between the Jews and the Gentiles. The Jews were God's chosen people. They despised and hated the Gentiles. The Gentiles were known as selfish, greedy, immoral, and ungodly people. They were viewed as strangers, outsiders. They were seen as unclean peoples. The Jews would not go near them for fear of becoming unclean.

We saw this unfold in Mark 7:1-2. "*¹ The Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered around Him when they had come from Jerusalem, ² and had seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands, that is, unwashed.*"

The Jews believed the Gentiles had no hope for salvation; that salvation was only for the Jew.

So, she was a woman, an unclean woman at that, living in an unclean land.