

b18Pentecost 14 ~ September 6, 2009 ~ A homily
preached by The Rev'd Erl G. Purnell at *Old St.
Andrew's Church*, Bloomfield, CT

Proverbs 22.1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James
2.1-17; Mark 7.24-37

Syrophoenician woman

... one of my very favorite stories

=> Re-tell story

What is this really about?

- Healing the girl?
- Feeding children?
- Feeding dogs?
- Social discrimination?
- Woman standing up to a Man?

Screenplay:

*Jesus jerks head back. Eyes open wide.
Stands. Touches Syrophoenician Woman's
arm.*

Jesus

*You are so right. I'm sorry ... You're a
strong woman. Like my own mother.
Thank you for saying that. Of course you
and your daughter deserve more ...*

Mark provides great lesson: **Jesus learns,
grows, changes!!!!**

Last series of healings in Galilee.

- Deaf man; speech impediment
- *Ephphatha* – “Be opened”
- ... so then, man hears & speaks

OK, another miracle healing, right?

BUT also => Mark insists

- ‘be opened as Jesus is opened’
- Jesus’ ears opened to Syrophoenician
woman’s plea
- Jesus opens ears of deaf man

Jesus healed by Syrophoenician woman!!

- learns, grows, changes

How are our ears closed?

What are we deaf to?

How can we be opened to learn, grow, change?

Amen.

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