



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 5 September 2021 | Pentecost 15



Message from Rev. Aaron Moad

Happy Father's Day to all the father's, grandfathers, and father figures.

Unfortunately, we still find ourselves under stay at home orders this week, and it's disappointing that we can't celebrate a day like today with family. I know that we are all frustrated, but we need to follow the rules and hopefully it will be over soon. We may not agree with lockdown, and right now it may not feel like it, but lockdown is temporary.

In the meantime, if you haven't heard from somebody for a while, please reach out to them. We can't see each other face to face, but yell out to your neighbour over the fence, and a phone call or an email can mean so much to someone who is struggling.

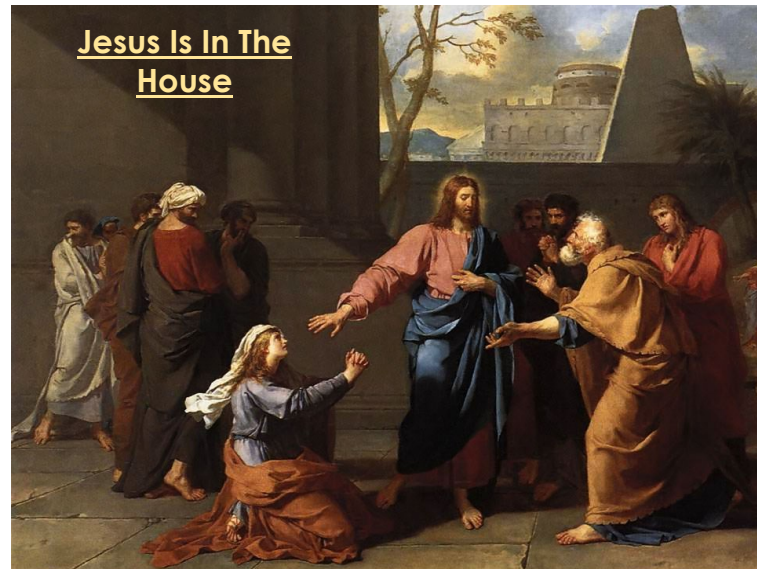
Mark 7:24-37

In our reading this week Mark 7:24-37 we have two stories of people who don't fit in to normal society of the time. First, The Syrophenician woman was, well, a woman. In that culture that was enough to make her a nobody. But even worse, she was not even Jewish. So Jesus really should not have been talking to someone like her.

Second, we have the deaf man with the speech impediment. I wonder how much teasing there had been in his childhood – other kids laughing at him when he could not hear, laughing at the funny way he talked. Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can break my heart.

Interestingly, Jesus dealt with these two situations quite differently. The woman did not fit into 'nice' company. So Jesus redefined what nice company meant.

God only loves Jewish people, right? That's what Jesus was saying when he talked about the food



being only for the children, he was testing the woman and the people around them. The woman, however, it seems understood more about God than people would have thought. Her faith that Jesus could help her was greater than even Jesus' disciples at times.

However it was, her penetrating, and amusingly sassy, reply to Jesus that really got attention. God's has enough love for the rest of us too, you know. She was bold.

As in many other cases, such as the centurion's servant, Jesus was pleased when he saw this faith, especially in one who had not been taught of God from childhood. Truly, God's kingdom is, and always has been, for all.

Jesus had a different plan for the man. The deaf man did not fit into society either; another square peg who did not fit the round hole society deemed normal. If in the first case with the woman Jesus changed societies expectations, changing the hole, this time Jesus changed the peg. Jesus did not fix the cruel people who taunted the man and broke his heart; he went to the heart of the matter and fixed the cause of the taunting.

Two different problems, two different solutions – but both bringing folks on the outside, inside.

For the woman, who was thought to be outside the kingdom, Jesus extended the blanket of God's love over her, and showed that the kingdom is for all, not just a group of 'nice' people. For the man, Jesus saw that his deepest need was to be accepted by his peers and to have his heart mended.

In these stories Jesus teaches us that the Kingdom of God and mission is about crossing boundaries and turning the world upside down.

Banora Point Uniting Church

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Acknowledgement To Country

The Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledge the indigenous traditional owners and custodians of this land, the Goori people and their Elders, past, present and future.

Our Mission: To love God and love our neighbours

A Message From Elizabeth

"All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small. all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all". (TIS 135)

A new day, a new month, a new season – praise God! on behalf of our church family I wish all who have celebrated or will celebrate a birthday in September, much love, many blessings and a happy and healthy up-coming year.

Happy Father's Day! Again, on behalf of our church family, I wish all who exercise a caring, fatherly role in our congregation and in our community, a happy, relaxing day. Thank you for playing an important role in our lives. I pray that our Heavenly Father will continue to bless you and keep you safe and well in these uncertain times.

Please be aware that when we come out of lockdown there will continue to be several restrictions placed on worshipping and coming together in church/congregational situations.

God be with you today and throughout the week.

Elizabeth Wells,

BPUC Church Council Chairperson

What's Happening This Week

**Due to current stay at home orders,
all activities are on hold until further notice**



Church Roster

	<u>TODAY</u>	<u>NEXT SUNDAY</u>
Organist	— — — — —	Jill
Pianist	— — — — —	Adrienne
Greeter	— — — — —	Janice & Alan
Bible Reader	— — — — —	Audrey & Dudley
Prayer	— — — — —	Virginia
Morning Tea	— — — — —	Sylvia & Dorothy M
Hall Set Up	— — — — —	Walter & Neil
Cleaning	— — — — —	Sylvia & Nigel

If you are unable to do your roster, please organise a swap AND let Janice know ASAP.

Daily Devotion Reflection

Saturday 28 August. ~ Galatians 2:15-21 –

Jesus Transforming Me

Focus question: What's changed since being crucified with Christ? We don't do good works to be saved, we do good works because we are saved. Good works flow out of God's love for us and our love for God.

Sunday 29 August. ~ Hebrews 11:1-6 –

Jesus Transforming Me

Focus question: What is faith? How do I live out my faith?

Monday 30 August. ~ John 2:12-25 - *Jesus leads.*

Reflect: It was Jesus' passion that God be glorified. Put yourself in the disciple's or a bystander's shoes. How would you react to this scene? Why was Jesus so upset? Weren't these people were after all providing a valuable service?

Tuesday 31 August. ~ John 3:1-21 - *Jesus and Nicodemus*

Reflect: Nicodemus was a man of deep faith, and an expert in the Law. But like the rest of the Israelites had lost his way. Is it only in physical darkness that Nicodemus Jesus? Can you identify with Nicodemus?

Wednesday 1 September. ~ John 3:22-35

Reflect: Jesus is the Christ and is above all things. John put aside his pride to do God's will. Are there things we need to put aside to do God's will?

Thursday 2 September. ~ John 4:1-42 -

Jesus models leadership

Reflect: Jesus connecting across cultural boundaries A Jewish man talking to a woman especially a non-Jewish woman was forbidden. But Jesus shares the Kingdom of God with her. What can we learn from Jesus' interaction with a person that other people wouldn't spend time with? What's more important physical nourishment or spiritual nourishment and doing God's will?

Friday 3 September. ~ John 4:43-54 - *leading as disciples*

Reflect: Taking Jesus at His word Jesus the Word of God is true to his word. As disciples of Jesus, why is it important that people can trust us at our word?

Tithes

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