

## The Gospel of Mark

### Portraits of Saving Faith

Mark 7:24-30, Selected Scriptures

- Hated Foreigners:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jesus contrasted both the real and the potential faith of gentiles in order to chastise the unbelief of His Jewish audience (Lk. 4:24-27; Mt. 11:20-24). The Syrophenician woman's faith was evident in that she was not dissuaded from pleading with Jesus to heal her daughter (cf. Mt. 15:28). Another gentile, a Roman centurion located in Capernaum, also demonstrated humility and a faith that astonished the Lord (Mt. 8:10).
  
- Scandalous Women:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Another distinguishing mark of saving faith is publicly testifying of one's faith in Christ (Rom. 10:9-10). Jesus encounters a woman whose life choices are morally scandalous and we see her go from reflexively sparring with Him (Jn. 4:7ff) to telling the town of Jesus (Jn. 4:42). One of the changes that we see in her testimony that initially she was careful to hide and minimize her own sin (Jn. 4:16-18) but she ended up using her own life story as part of her evangelistic message (Jn. 4:28, 29, 39). You cannot testify to the content of the gospel in a nonverbal way, but Jesus encountered another woman who very clearly testified to her love of the Savior without saying a word (Lk. 7:36-50).
  
- Terrible Tax Collectors:** \_\_\_\_\_  
One of the most striking signs of saving faith is in the obvious evidence of real repentance, and Jesus uses the stories of two different tax collectors to put this on display. Saving faith is a repentant faith, and repentance is found in the humble and not in the proud (Lk. 18:9-14; Hab 2:4). Zaccheus' repentance was evident in that he wanted nothing to do with even the appearance illicit gains (Lk. 19:8; cf. Lk. 18:22-23).