

1. Mission to Tyre and Sidon

- a) What do you know about the cities of Tyre and Sidon? 1 Kings 5:1-12, 11:1-6, Matthew 11:21-22
- b) Why do you think Jesus took His disciples on a mission trip to the region of Tyre and Sidon in Phoenicia when there was more than enough mission work to be done in Israel? (Matthew 4:23-25, 15:21)

2. Encountering the Syro-Phoenician woman

- a) Mark 7:24 What is Jesus doing here? Why is He pretending to hide in a house after making a special mission trip to this region?
- b) Compare Mark 7:25-30 and Matthew 15:22-28. What differences do you see in these two accounts?
- c) What are your thoughts about the appeal of the disciples, “Send her away!”?
- d) Why does Jesus appear to show a lack of compassion for this Syro-Phoenician woman when He had just recently demonstrated great compassion for the multitude by the Sea of Galilee? Matthew 14:14
- e) What words of affirmation reveal the genuine compassion of Jesus for this woman and her daughter? Matthew 15:28

3. Encountering a Gentile centurion in Caesarea

- a) What was Peter’s attitude toward Gentiles before his interaction with Cornelius? Acts 10:20a

- b) How did God help Peter to abandon those long-held traditions and prejudices? Acts 10:1-8, 9-16, 17-28
- c) What supernatural confirmation was given that Gentiles were also to be embraced as part of the Christian church? Acts 10:44-48
- d) What was the reaction of some Jewish Christian leaders in Jerusalem? Acts 11:1-3
- e) What changed their minds? Acts 11:4-18
- f) What incident in the life of Peter reminds us that abandoning long-held traditions and prejudices may take some time? Galatians 2:11-13

4. Overcoming resistance in Decapolis

- a) What do you know about the region of Decapolis?
- b) Read Mark 5:1-13. What can we learn about the region from this story?
- c) What was the initial reaction of the unreached people of that region after the demon-possessed man was set free? Mark 5:14-17
- d) What special mission did Jesus give to this liberated man and what was the result? Mark 5:18-20

5. What lessons can we learn from these stories as we engage in mission to the unreached?

