

January 31, 2010
Mark 7:24-37

The Good News: A Sermon Series through the Gospel of Mark
The Good News of a Savior
Who is Moved by Faith to New Places
Rev. John Sowers

He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!"). At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Mark 7:34-35, 37

If your group would like to spend some time in conversation with God about becoming more open to expanding your circle of compassion then consider the following resource:

start> BECOMING A GOOD SAMARITAN

6 week DVD series

For more information, contact Brenda Norton at x220

When is the last time you remember having your mind changed about something? What caused you to change your mind?

READ Mark 7:24-37

Consider why it is so significant that Jesus expanded his mission of salvation, healing and compassion to Gentiles.

John shared 2 examples at FPC where people have made changes to expand ministry:

1. Men who attended TNL Conversations on Homelessness are now hanging out at Truth Ministries.
2. Sr. High Small Groups have rearranged so outsiders are included like insiders.

Share examples where you see people of FPC expanding our circle of compassion.

What is your small group doing to expand its circle of compassion?

1. Increasing your awareness of "outsiders."
2. Praying about what God is calling you as individuals and as a group to do.
3. Making a plan to interact with people outside your circle.
4. Looking for someone to invite into the fellowship of your group.

PRAY TOGETHER!

1. Be honest and bold, like the Syrophenician Woman, in asking Jesus to heal people you care about.
2. Ask God to give you courage to expand the circle of who you care about.

Support One Another - Commit to Expanding

What is God asking of you as a response today?

What would help you choose to respond?