

# *The Kindness & Sternness of God*

Gospel of Mark Series – Part 24

Scripture text – Mark 7:24-37

## Introduction

- Most Americans today have an \_\_\_\_\_ view of God.
  - 1) The majority see him as a purely \_\_\_\_\_ being.
  - 2) Others perceive him as \_\_\_\_\_ all the time.
- We should aim for a balanced (and biblical) view; one that \_\_\_\_\_ both his kindness & sternness (Romans 11:22).
- A.W. Tozer: “How you \_\_\_\_\_ about God is the most important thing about you.”

## The Sternness

- We can understand Jesus being stern with the \_\_\_\_\_, but not with this desperate woman.
- At first, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ her. And then he \_\_\_\_\_ her.
- Many try to \_\_\_\_\_ his response, but there’s no getting around the fact that he’s \_\_\_\_\_ her request.
- His reason even comes across as \_\_\_\_\_.
- However, the woman persists. She had an understanding of Jesus’ ministry that nobody else did; namely, that his ministry to the \_\_\_\_\_ would overflow to (and bless) the \_\_\_\_\_ as well.
- One application is that we also ask things of God and get \_\_\_\_\_. According to James Backus, this often produces a hidden \_\_\_\_\_ with God, and results in our keeping God at \_\_\_\_\_ length.

## The Kindness

- This is a much more \_\_\_\_\_ story. But, a question we might ask is: Why all the machinations?
- One explanation is that Jesus is showing tremendous \_\_\_\_\_; he’s speaking \_\_\_\_\_ to put the man at ease.

- This is an aspect of God we probably take for granted; that being, how he \_\_\_\_\_ himself to our need. John Calvin wrote that God speaks \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ to us.
- Also, this story must be interpreted against the backdrop of Isaiah 35:3-5, which prophecies that the Messiah will \_\_\_\_\_ ears and \_\_\_\_\_ tongues.
  - Jesus will deliver his people from ALL their \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Deafness & muteness are also symbolic of \_\_\_\_\_ deafness & muteness.
  - How many of us are deaf in the sense of not \_\_\_\_\_ God? How many of us have gone mute in \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel?

### Conclusion

- Isaiah 35 says the Savior will come with vengeance and divine retribution. Jesus did so, only it was all put on \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ is where God's sternness & kindness come together perfectly.