Sunday, Sept. 6, 2015 “INCLUDING THE UNATTRACTIVE” based on Mark 7: 24-37

Story of celebrity party. God, through Jesus, has a way of evening the odds!

Today’s Gospel presents 2 very different stories of healing

1. Distant and reluctant. Harsh exchange between Jesus and Syrophoenician woman. Defined by foreignness, gender, and social status. Bold speech and persistence frees daughter from disease.
2. Up close and personal. Disabled brought to Jesus by friends, taken aside, and healed.
3. Both healed, but real point is the removal of barriers that isolate people.

Still faced by barriers

1. International – foreigners, such as Middle-Easterners, Mexicans, Asians.
2. National – Blacks, poor people.
3. Inequalities – rich vs. poor, ages, handicapped, gender orientation, women.
4. Churches declining, volunteers harder to fine, less giving to charity.

Christians committed to break down walls, work for peace, love our neighbor as ourselves.

1. Need persistence in hammering away at barriers, ears need to be opened to cries of people.
2. Not to be shy about faith – we are to ‘go into the world, proclaiming the love of God’

Thank God that we have this ministry and the faith to see it through!