

Lesson X.

THE GENTILE WOMAN'S FAITH

June 3, 1906

Mark 7: 24-30. Commit to memory v. 30. Read Matthew 15: 1-28.

GOLDEN TEXT—Great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.—Matthew 15: 28.

24 And from thence he arose, and went ¹ into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into an house, and would have no man know it: ² but he could not be hid.

25 ³ For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell ⁴ at his feet:

26 ⁵ The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by ⁶ nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

27 But Jesus said unto her, Let the children

Revised Version—¹ away; ² and; ³ But straightway a woman, whose little daughter; ⁴ down; ⁵ Now; ⁶ race; ⁷ And he said; ⁸ cast it to thee; ⁹ saith; ¹⁰ Yea; ¹¹ even the dogs; ¹² she went away unto her house, and found the child laid upon the bed, and the devil gone out.

first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and ⁸ to cast it unto the dogs.

28 And she answered and ⁹ said unto him, ¹⁰ Yes, Lord: ¹¹ yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs.

29 And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.

30 And ¹² when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—Summer, A.D. 29; region of Tyre and Sidon.

Connection—After the feeding of the 5,000 (last Lesson), the people wished to make Jesus King, but He left them and went away alone into a mountain (John 6: 14), sending His disciples across the lake to Capernaum, Matt. 14: 22. A violent storm arose, and they were in peril. Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. Having received Him into the boat, they came safely to land (see John 6: 18-21). As soon as they had landed, many sick people came to Jesus, and He healed them, ch. 6: 53-56. Then followed the discourse in the Capernaum synagogue on the Bread of Life, John 6: 22-59. The Lesson is a few weeks later.

I. FAITH SHOWN.—24. From thence; Capernaum. He arose, and went; taking refuge from the hot opposition of the Pharisees (see earlier part of the chapter). From this time on, Jesus, for the most part, avoided Galilee, with its crowds, living in quiet, lonely places with the Twelve, preparing them for their work when He should have been taken from them. The borders; the country around Tyre and Sidon, which were wealthy and wicked sea-ports of Phœnicia, a narrow strip of territory belonging to Syria, on the Mediterranean Sea, to the north and west of Palestine. It was a Gentile country. Would have no man know it. He was not weary in well-doing, but sought undisturbed quiet for the teaching of the disciples and communion with God. Could not be hid. He had never been in this region before, but some of its people had seen Him in Galilee (ch. 3: 8; Luke 6: 17), and had carried back reports about Him. 25, 26. Straightway a woman (Rev. Ver.). When she heard of Jesus, she lost no time in coming to Him. Sorrow of heart gave her swiftness of foot. Young (Rev. Ver. "little") daughter. . . unclean spirit; a "devil" (v. 26), or demon, which caused

the child terrible anguish, Matt 15: 22. Fell at his feet; in deepest humility and intense eagerness for her daughter's healing. A Greek; a Gentile. A Syrophenician by nation; a Phœnician living in Syria. There was a branch of the same race in Liya in North Africa. The Phœnicians were busy manufacturers and keen traders.

II. FAITH TESTED.—27. Jesus said. Matthew (ch. 15: 23) mentions the silence of Jesus, and the request of the disciples. The children; the Jews, the children of God's chosen servant Abraham, to whom Jesus had so far confined His work. First. There was a window of hope in the word—by and by the Gentiles may receive the blessing. But the

grief-stricken mother wants healing for her daughter now. Not meet; fitting. The dogs; the Jews' name of contempt for the Gentiles. Jesus uses it—but in the softer form of the word for the little pet house dogs—only to try the woman's faith.

28. Yes, Lord: yet. Faith will not be silenced. The woman "catches Jesus at His own words." (Luther.) The dogs; pets loved by the children. The children's crumbs; not only those which fall by chance, but morsels dropped by the children. So, Gentile though

she was, she claimed a share in the blessings from God, which the Jews thought belonged to themselves alone. She and her people have a place, be it ever so humble, in the house of the Master of all. Let the children be fed first, but they, too, are not to be forgotten.

III. FAITH REWARDED.—29, 30. For this saying. Matthew (ch. 15: 23) tells us how Jesus praised the woman's faith. And we can imagine the love that beamed from His eyes and was heard in His tone. Our Lord never praised anything so highly as great faith (see Luke 7: 9). Go thy way. . . when she was come. The woman showed her faith by leaving Jesus, as well as by coming to



House Dogs of Cairo, Egypt