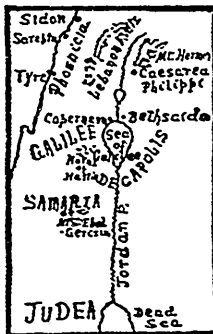


Not worthy; from moral standpoint, perhaps also, because he was a Gentile. *Speak . . . only.* The greatness of this officer's faith was only equalled by its simplicity. Under authority; modest description of his position. I say to this man, Go, to another, Come, . . . to my servant, Do this; only a higher servant over lower servants, yet his word is law. How much more surely will the word of the great Master be obeyed!

10-13. *Marvelled.* Only twice do we read that Jesus marvelled, once at the unbelief of his fellow townsmen of Nazareth (Mark 6: 6), and here. *Many.* The centurion's faith was prophetic of the response of the Gentile world—to Christ and His gospel. *East and west;* heathen lands. *Sit down with Abraham, etc.;* share fully with them the heavenly home. *But . . . cast out;* the awful woe of those who like the Jews had great privileges, but fell short of them. *As thou hast believed.* In Christ's kingdom faith is always the measure of what we receive. So be it done; prompt and unshakeable faith: quick and sure cure.

GEOGRAPHY LESSON



SAREPTA is a town on the Phœnician coast, nine miles south of Sidon. It belonged to the territory of the tribe of Asher, but had always remained Gentile. It was a populous city, extending to the sea. The modern remnant stands on a steep hill, five hundred feet high, and a mile from the sea. In Luke 4: 25, 26 Jesus points out that Elijah was sent, not to the many widows of Israel, but to a heathen widow of Sarepta.

Sarepta. In our Lesson Jesus is in this region on a similar errand to a similar woman.

LESSON QUESTIONS

24-26 In what direction do we now find Jesus going? What was His purpose? What two cities are mentioned? Who now discovers Jesus? What was her religion? Her nationality? Her sorrow? Her request? What was Jesus' answer? How does she reason with Him? What was the reward of her faith?

Matt. 8: 5-13 In what town did the centurion find

Jesus? To whose army did he belong? What was a centurion? For whom does he intercede? What was the illness of his servant? What does Jesus propose to do? What reason made it seem unnecessary to the centurion that Jesus should come to his home? What did Jesus say about the centurion's faith? What command did He then give? With what result? Who will be found within the kingdom? Who will be found without?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Which are the more likely to accept Jesus, those who have often heard of Him, or those who hear for the first time?

2. "All things are possible to Him that believeth"; is this saying, or is it not, absolutely true?

A LESSON FOR LIFE

Things grow in unexpected places. In our Rockies glowing, fragile flowers bloom on the very edge of the cold, massive, slowly advancing glacier, and great towering trees grow out of the rocks where there seems scarcely enough soil to nourish a bush. Jesus, in like manner, found unexpected things among the Gentiles, where the Jews could find nothing good. From the Gentile heart there blossomed faith that was as beautiful as the fragile flower, and as strong as the lofty pine. The story of mission work ever bears testimony to this blessed fact. From amongst the naked, savage cannibals, no less than from the followers of the higher non-Christian religions are the sweet flowers plucked of holy and pure living.

Prove from Scripture—That all may come to Jesus.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 32. What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

A. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which, in this life, do either accompany or flow from them.

The Question on Missions—3. Where are these schools to be found? They are found in Ontario and in all Western Canada. There are 73 in all, of which our church maintains 8 and owns 7, one in Ontario, two in Manitoba, three in Saskatchewan and two in British Columbia.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 195 (Supplemental Lesson); 163; 147; 112 (Ps. Sol.); 560 (from PRIMITIVE QUARTERLY); 402.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Give some facts about the Syrophenician woman.....

2. What does the word used by Jesus for dogs really mean?.....

3. Why did the centurion think himself not worthy that Jesus should enter his house?.....