

JESUS VISITS TYRE AND SIDON

April 3, 1904

Mark 7 : 24-37—Memory Verses, 27-29.

Golden Text—Without faith it is impossible to please him.—Heb. 11 : 6.



THE LESSON RETOLD

Once Jesus took with Him His disciples and went away toward the heathen cities of Tyre and Sidon. Being tired with His journey, He went to lodge in a certain house, telling His disciples to keep it a secret where He was. But the news soon spread that He was come ; so that He could no longer hide Himself.

The first person here to ask Jesus for help was a poor Greek woman, who came crying after Him in the street, begging that He would come and cure her little girl, who was troubled by an evil spirit. At first Jesus did not pay any attention to the woman, and the disciples, vexed at the noise she was making, wished Him to send her away. But Jesus was only waiting to see whether or not the mother truly believed in Him. Seeing that she kept on

following, He presently turned and reminded her that the Jews called all who were not Jews dogs. "Would it then be right," He asked, still wishing to prove her, "to take the children's bread and give it to the dogs?"

But the poor mother was not to be put off. "Oh, Sir," she answered, "what you say is true. Yet even the little dogs have a right to the children's crumbs that fall to them from the table." So pleased was Jesus with her answer and the great faith that it showed, that He at once told her that her daughter should be cured. Believing His promise with all her heart, the mother returned quickly to her home, where she found her little girl well and resting quietly upon the bed.

On His way back to Galilee, Jesus was met by a deaf man, who was also such a stammerer that no one could understand him. His friends now came to Jesus and begged that He would lay His hands upon him, believing He could cure him. Jesus then quietly drew the man aside from the crowd, and after placing His hands upon his ears, He moistened one of His fingers in His mouth and laid it upon the poor man's tongue. Then looking up to heaven in prayer, He spoke the word "Ephphatha," meaning "Be opened," and immediately the man could both hear and speak plainly.

Seeing the excitement of the people, Jesus warned them to say nothing of the miracle. But the more He warned them, the more they told of it saying, "He hath done all things well : He maketh both the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak."

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON

1. Who came to Jesus when He was near to Tyre and Sidon ?
2. What did this heathen woman want ?
3. What did the Jews think of all who were not Jews ?
4. Why did not Jesus answer her at once ?
5. With what question did He prove her ?
6. How did the mother answer ?
7. Why was Jesus pleased with her ?
8. How did He bless her ?
9. Who met Jesus on His way back to Galilee ?
10. How did He cure the deaf stammerer ?
11. What warning did He give the people ?
12. How did they obey Him ?