

as to the miracle? Why did the people disobey? Would we have obeyed or disobeyed? "He hath done all things well"—the Christian's tribute to Jesus.

## For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

By Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, M.A.

Let Professor Ross, in his *Light from the East*, give us the starting point—Tyre (turn up the Old Testament references to this princely city), her splendor and her commerce, and, alas! her sin; Sidon, near neighbor and after the same sort; the Phœnicians, sea-dogs, explorers and merchants.

Start here; but do not here stop. Geography, history—talk about places and people—this is interesting; but the core of the Lesson lies deeper. It is a lesson on faith: first, in the case of the woman, strong faith tested and triumphant; then, in the case of the deaf and dumb man, weaker faith helped. The teacher will not, of course, set all this out in so many words, at this stage. To do so would be, in all probability, to forfeit the interest of the class, and hence the opportunity of drawing out their faith toward the mighty Saviour.

Some questions about the woman—a Gentile, or heathen, with no knowledge of the scriptures, nor of the Christ, save that He had done great miracles of power and mercy. What brought her to Jesus? Ah, that mother love! Verse 25 tells the tale. No harm if the children are made to see afresh

how their fathers' and their mothers' lives are bound up in theirs. Trace the mother's footsteps (yes, and *follow* them Jesus-ward)—"heard," "came," "fell at His feet," "besought." It was a great request, but her need was great, and her trust was great, and His power was great. This is the gauge of prayer,—our need, our faith, God's power.

The dialogue of the dogs and the crumbs is easy. The sleepiest child will wake up. Very skilful was Jesus' test of the suppliant's faith, and splendidly did her faith rise to the occasion. Faith (as it always does) won the day. Verse 29 gives the reward—it took greater faith still to go—and verse 30 completes the triumph and joy.

A little geography again—a northern circuit through Gentile territory—Jesus wanted quiet just now for Himself and His disciples. But, as before, He could not be hid. Once more faith comes with its request. This time it was the friends of a deaf and dumb man, v. 32. They had faith; so had the man, else he would not have come. Jesus is very tender, because their faith could stand no rebuff. Notice how every movement and act (vs. 33, 34) is calculated to draw out the trust and confidence of the unfortunate man. How prompt and complete, too, is the cure! v. 35.

Such bodily healings did Jesus work in response to faith. What will He not do for our souls' needs, if we but breathe the prayer of trust!

## ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under several headings.

### Lesson Outline

#### TWO MIRACLES.

#### I. The Syrophenician's Daughter.

1. Jesus' retirement from opposition.
2. His widespread fame.
3. The visit of a pagan woman.
4. Her importunate request.
5. Our Lord's apparent repulse.
6. The woman's shrewd, believing reply.
7. Her great reward.

#### II. The Deaf Mute of Decapolis.

1. The friends of the dumb man.
2. The actions of Jesus and their meaning.

3. The instantaneous and complete cure.

4. The command to secrecy.

5. Outspoken wonder.

### Lesson Points

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, B.D.

The penalty of despising privileges is their withdrawal. v. 24.

Goodness bears its own light. v. 24.

Distress is often the divine method of driving us to the great Deliverer. v. 25.

A heathen heart is still a human heart. v. 26.

Those who seek help from Jesus may meet a repulse at first, but never a final refusal. v. 27.