

it was true. And until our hearts have learned to submit to this, we have not reached the place to which sin has brought us in the presence of God ; nor are we on that ground of rest, (even if believers), that nothing can shake or disturb. It is indeed a terrible thing to feel one's ruin in the presence of God; and to know that His mercy is our only resource, and, at the same moment, to be obliged to own, that we have not the least claim to the exercise of that mercy. But this is the truth of our case ; and the Lord's dealing with this woman illustrates it in the plainest way.

She had no claim to the promises, and therefore could not plead them. She was not a child, and therefore could not claim the children's portion. She was, in truth, a Gentile dog—and she could only have a dog's portion. In the presence of God, even when suing for mercy, we must indeed take the place that belongs to us. This poor woman does so. She does not refuse the place that belongs to her, however low and degraded it may be. But, oh, there is a reality in her dealing with the Lord that nothing can set aside. She meets the reply of Christ, by taking the dog's place; and answers, "Truth, Lord, yet the dogs eat of the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

She owns God's sovereign right to choose a people, if He pleases. She acknowledges that she is not one of them, and that she has no right to the children's portion. But, at the same time, she casts herself on that sovereign goodness, to which she can make no claim, and is content with what, in its sovereign exercise, it can bestow on a dog.

The apparent harshness of Christ in refusing to