

Lesson I.

JESUS VISITS TYRE AND SIDON

April 3, 1904

Mark 7: 24-37. Commit to memory vs. 27-29. Read the chapter.

GOLDEN TEXT—Without faith it is impossible to please him.—Heb. 11: 6.

24 And from thence he arose, and went ¹into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, ²and entered into an house, and would have no man know it: ³but he could not be hid.

25 ⁴For a certain woman, whose ⁵young daughter had an unclean spirit, ⁶heard of him and came and fell at his feet;

26 ⁷The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenic⁸ian by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

27 ⁹But Je'sus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it ¹⁰unto the dogs.

28 And she answered and said unto him, Yes, Lord: 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 ¹¹when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.

31 And again ¹²departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee through the midst of the ¹³coasts of Decap^oolis.

32 And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to ¹⁴put his hand upon him.

33 And he took him aside from the multitude, ¹⁵and put his fingers into his ears, and he ¹⁶spit, and touched his tongue;

34 And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Eph^hphatha, that is, Be opened.

35 And ¹⁷straightway his ears were opened, and the ¹⁸string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain.

36 And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it;

37 And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh ¹⁹both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.

Revised Version—¹Away; ²And he entered; ³and; ⁴But straightway; ⁵little; ⁶having heard of him, came and fell down at; ⁷Now then; ⁸race; And; ⁹And he said; ¹⁰to; ¹¹And she went away unto her house, and found the child laid upon the bed, and the devil gone out; ¹²he went out from the borders of Tyre, and came through Sidon unto the sea; ¹³borders; ¹⁴lay; ¹⁵privately; ¹⁶spat; ¹⁷Omit straightway; ¹⁸bond; ¹⁹even.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

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

Collection—The feeding of the 5,000 (Lesson 21, First Quarter) was followed by the storm on the Lake and Jesus' walking on the water, the healing of many sick people, and the discourse on the bread of life, Mark 6: 30-34; John 6: 22-59. Our Lesson is a few weeks later.

I. FAITH TESTED.—24. From thence; Capernaum and neighborhood. He arose and went; taking refuge from the hot opposition of the Pharisees (see earlier part of the chapter). The borders; the country around Tyre and Sidon, wealthy and wicked sea-port towns of Phoenicia, a narrow strip of

clan by nation; a Phœnician living in Syria. There was a branch in Libya in North Africa. Busy manufacturers and keen traders the Phœnicians were. But Jesus said unto her. For a fuller account see Matt. 15: 23-25 (be sure to read this). The children; the Jews, the children of God's chosen servant Abraham, to whom Jesus had thus far confined his work. First. It is a hard word; but there is a glint of hope—by and by the Gentiles may receive the blessing. Little comfort to the eager woman, just then. 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.

28-30. Yes, Lord, yet—! Faith ever has its answer. It will not be put down. The children's crumbs. There is something even for the dogs, is her argument, and, therefore, He who blesses the children, must have a blessing for her as well. For this saying. In Matthew ch. 15: 28 Jesus praises the woman's faith. Go thy way . . . when she was come. She had faith to leave Jesus as well as to come to Him. Laid (thrown) upon the bed; probably in a state of exhaustion from the convulsions caused by the demon leaving her (see chs. 1: 28; 9: 26).



A Coin of Ancient Tyre

country belonging to Syria, on the Mediterranean Sea, immediately to the north of Palestine. It was a Gentile country. Would have no man know it. He wished to be alone, for a time, with His disciples and with God. Could not be hid. People of that region had seen Him in Galilee (Mark 3: 8; Luke 6: 17), and had carried back reports about Him.

25-27. A certain woman. Her name we know not, but the fame of her faith is in all the world. Unclean spirit; a "devil," or demon (v. 26) which caused the child terrible suffering, Matt. 15: 22. Fell at his feet; oh, so eager for her daughter's healing! A Greek; a Gentile. A Syropheni-

II. FAITH HELPED.—31. Decapolis (ten cities); a region south-east of the Lake of Galilee, containing ten cities. In this neighborhood Jesus had healed the demoniac of Gadara, ch. 5: 1-20.

32-34. One that was deaf. From Matthew (ch. 15: 30, 31) we learn that there were many such miracles wrought at this time and place. An impediment; some trouble with the organs of speech, in addition to his deafness. Took him aside . . . privately (Rev. Ver.); perhaps the better to fix the man's attention on Himself alone. Put his fingers into his ears; to show just what He was going to do, and to awaken faith and expectation. Looking