

Lesson III.

THE GENTILE WOMAN'S FAITH

July 15, 1900

Mark 7: 24-30—Memory Verses, 27-30

Golden Text—Lord, help me.—Matt. 15: 25.



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

25 For a *certain* woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet:

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

27 But Je'sus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it unto 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 when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.

THE LESSON RETOLD

While Jesus was preaching about the bread of life the Pharisees watched to see if He and His disciples washed their hands before eating. The scribes and Pharisees were very careful to keep all such rules and were angry at Jesus when He said that God could not be pleased in this way. They found so much fault that very soon Jesus went away with His disciples to another part of the country, where they could rest and talk quietly together.

Here the people were not Jews but heathen. They were called Gentiles.

There was a poor heathen woman living near who had a little daughter that was ill with a terrible sickness. She had an evil spirit. This heathen mother had heard strange stories of Jesus' wonderful cures in His own country; so she came and fell at

His feet, begging help for her little daughter.

The disciples said, "Send the woman away. She is making too much noise." But Jesus would not send her away, though He did not answer her at once. He wanted to see if she was really in earnest and believed He could help her. Now, the Jews were God's own people. He called them His children. Jesus said to the woman, "I must first help my own people. Supposing the children were hungry, it would not do to take away their food and throw it to the dogs." "Oh no," said the mother, "but often the little dogs under the table are glad to get the crumbs and pieces that fall from the children's hands."

Jesus was pleased with her answer, because it showed great trust and meekness. Then He said, "Go away home. Because of

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