

Jesus Visits Tyre and Sidon

the wayside, and placing his hand on his head, said solemnly, "Jamie, I'm anxious for your soul;" for that remark had changed his life.

Put his fingers into his ears, etc., v. 33. Why did our Lord touch this man's ear and tongue? Doubtless because he was deaf, and Christ took this means of letting him know that he was to be cured and helping him to believe that it would be so. He was saying to him by signs, "Hear and

speak." So ought we always to accommodate our methods to the condition of the one we seek to reach. There are a thousand different sorts of people, and a thousand ways in which they should be sought.

He hath done all things well, v. 37. There are many things in the Lord's dealings with us which are hard for us to understand now. But,

if we trust Him, we shall see at the end of our life story that it is His hand that has been guiding us all the way.

Suiting the
Plan to the
Need

All Things
Well

TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the school.

For Bible Class Teachers

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Ask, first, for the contents of the lesson. Call attention to the fact that it consists of two miracles. Ask what is a miracle, and use the answer to enforce the truth that the miracles of Jesus are like His words and His whole life, a disclosure of the character and purposes of God.

Perhaps the best introduction is to ask the class how many of them were ever out of the country. Here Jesus goes out of His country. Why? It was no longer quite safe for Him to teach in Galilee. His life was in peril. Herod, the Sanhedrim, and the common people were now all against Him. Teach the class that the last year of our Lord's life, which begins about this point, was largely spent in retirement, and devoted chiefly to the training of His disciples. Show that it was our Lord's refusal to become the Sovereign they desired, His opposition, alike to the Pharisees and to the common people, that cost Him His popularity.

Our Lord had quitted Galilee for Phoenicia, but even there he was recognized. His person was known even in that pagan land. Bring out the fact that the land was pagan, as this is the key to the treatment of the woman who made her appeal to Him on behalf of her daughter. Get the class to explain the terms Greek and Syrophenician. By a series of skilful questions, elicit that even children suffered from the malady known as possession, the greatness of the

mother's love for her child, the unusual treatment she received. A reference to the parallel narrative of Matthew will make the last point very plain. Show that she won her case by her importunity and faith.

Is there a ray of hope in the words, "Let the children first be filled"? And in the use of the term, "little dogs," house dogs? Bring out the penetration shown in the woman's application of our Lord's words. View the miracle as a prophecy of our Lord's relations to us Gentiles.

The next miracle is that of the deaf man who was either entirely dumb, or spoke with difficulty. It took place when our Lord was on His way from Tyre to the Sea of Galilee. Follow His course on a map. Note that our Lord passed through Sidon, a heathen city. He then seems to have taken the road leading from Sidon to Damascus, and to have left this near Caesarea Philippi, and to have proceeded south till He reached the east side of the Lake. Explain the title Decapolis, "ten cities." The "coasts of Decapolis" was the region under the influence of these cities.

Try to bring the scene vividly before the class; a country district; the population Jewish or mixed; the news of Jesus' arrival; the action of the friends of the deaf man; their request. Then inquire why our Lord took him apart and treated him as He did? You will get different answers. Bring out the fact that our Lord followed now one method and now another, the explanation being found in the different needs of the patients. What do we learn as to the language spoken by Jesus from the word "Ephphatha"? Why did the Lord enjoin silence