

GENTILE MERCY, NOT JEWISH PROMISES.

MATTHEW XV, 21-28

THERE is a practical lesson in Christ's way of mercy toward this woman, as well as a secret in her lowly, uncomplaining assumption of the place that belonged to her, that many a heart, that is seeking for help in Jesus, needs to know.

The soul that knows and owns its wretchedness, and makes no pretension to any claim, yet brings its misery before a God of goodness, is a soul that Jesus can never refuse to comfort. He may be repelled by the claims of a false and pretended righteousness: but He cannot hide Himself from the misery that seeks His aid, and has no plea nor appeal except for mercy's ear. For mercy dwells, as in its proper fountain, in the heart of God; and Jesus is both the expression of that mercy, and the channel through which it flows.

Blessed Lord! He can dismiss from His presence a company of proud Pharisees, who find fault with His ways of grace, with the stern rebuke, "Go ye and learn what this meaneth, I will have mercy and not sacrifice;" and can say to a poor outcast Gentile, that pretends to receive nothing from Him but what goodness can give to a dog, "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt." Misery thus owned and felt, and making its appeal to sovereign mercy, reaches at once the eternal spring of goodness.