

THE REWARD OF FAITH AND PERSEVERANCE

BIBLE TEXT : Matthew 15:21-31; Mark 7:31-37

LESSON 96 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "He hath done all things well" (Mark 7:37).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Matthew 15:21-31 (KJV)

²¹ Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.

²² And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, *thou* Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

²³ But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

²⁴ But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

²⁵ Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

²⁶ But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* to dogs.

²⁷ And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

²⁸ Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great *is* thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

²⁹ And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there.

³⁰ And great multitudes came unto him, having with them *those that were* lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them:

³¹ Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Jesus and the Syrophenician Woman

1. Jesus passes through the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, Matthew 15:21
2. A Gentile woman cries for mercy, Matthew 15:22;
Mark 10:47 (KJV) ⁴⁷ And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, *thou* Son of David, have mercy on me.
3. Her cries are unanswered; the disciples want to send her away, Matthew 15:23;
John 11:6 (KJV) ⁶ When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.
4. Jesus says He was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, Matthew 15:24;
Matthew 9:36 (KJV) ³⁶ But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.
5. She worships Jesus and pleads for help, Matthew 15:25
6. Jesus tells her the children's bread should not be given to dogs, Matthew 15:26
7. Her faith and perseverance bring reward, Matthew 15:27, 28;
James 1:3 (KJV) ³ Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. **1 Peter 1:7 (KJV)** ⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

II. Jesus and the Man Who Was Deaf

1. Jesus comes to the Sea of Galilee by way of Decapolis Mark 7:31
2. They bring a deaf man and beseech Jesus to heal him, Mark 7:32;
Matthew 9:32 (KJV) ³² As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil. **Luke 11:14 (KJV)** ¹⁴ And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered.
3. Jesus puts His fingers in the man's ears and touches his tongue, Mark 7:33,34;
Mark 9:23 (KJV) ²³ Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.
4. Immediately his ears are opened and his tongue loosed, Mark 7:35;
Isaiah 35:5-6 (KJV) ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. ⁶ Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.
5. The people are grateful and say, "He hath done all things well," Mark 7:36. 37

NOTES:

The Syrophenician Woman

We find that in the life of Jesus here on earth He devoted His ministry to the Jews. He said He was not sent but to the lost sheep of the house, but He did not turn a deaf ear to the cry of those outside the fold when they came seeking help. Just as He "must needs" go through Samaria one day, we believe He must needs pass along the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, for in those coasts there was a mother in deep trouble. Her daughter was terribly afflicted by the devil. No doubt that mother had tried every known remedy to relieve her daughter, all to no avail. When she heard of the fame of Jesus and that He was passing through their coast, she must have said in her heart, "I am going to seek His help." Hope sprang up in her heart that her daughter might yet

blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

Mark 7:31-37 (KJV)

³¹ And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis.

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

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

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

³⁵ And straightway his ears were opened, and the string 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 both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.

be well. Trouble has brought many a soul to the feet of Jesus. As we listen to the testimonies of the redeemed of the Lord that go forth in our services, we find that most of them came to Jesus seeking a way out of their blues. Many of them were just as forlorn, just as bound by the devil, as this daughter was. They found that the Gospel has the same power to deliver today as it had two thousand years ago.

A Penitent's Prayer

This woman was called a Canaanite because of the people from whom she descended. Mark calls her a Syrophenician because of the country where she dwelt. She acknowledged the divinity of Jesus by calling Him Lord. She must have known something of Jewish history, for she calls Him the Son of David. Her prayer was short, but she put her whole life and soul into it - "Have mercy on me." That is the substance of the prayer that every sinner prays. It is a penitent's prayer. It never fails to reach the ear of Jesus. He may not answer immediately, as in this case, but He will never turn a penitent soul away.

Perseverance

At first Jesus did not answer her. We may not always get answers to our prayers at once, but this woman's perseverance should encourage us to keep holding on. The disciples wanted to send her away. Many times people do not understand what is in the heart of a penitent soul and would turn him away without help. Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart. Jesus said, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 15:24). That would have daunted the courage of many people; but the fact that Jesus spoke to her seemed to put boldness into her heart, for she drew near and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me." Jesus said, "It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs." How many people in the world today would have become indignant at such a rebuke, and like Naaman the leper, would have turned away in a rage. But, with her courage undaunted, she said, "Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." That statement brought forth, one of the greatest commendations that ever fell from the lips of the Master: "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt." Jesus often reproofed the disciples because of their little faith. They had seen miracle after miracle performed. This woman, a Canaanite, possibly had never seen a miracle wrought, but in her heart she believed He was the Son of God and had power to help. She persevered until help came. How many times do we fall short of the real glory that would be ours if we would persevere and keep holding on!

**"Keep holding on, Keep holding on,
The victory will soon be won;
The longest day will soon be gone,
Keep holding on, Keep holding on."**

That very hour the daughter was healed. The Scripture in Isaiah was fulfilled, that He came to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives (Isaiah 61: 1). True faith accompanied by repentance brings results every time. The faith of this humble, simple hearted woman has brought to us one of the greatest lessons on faith and perseverance that we have in the Word of God. The more we hear and study the Word of God with an open heart, the more faith will grow in our souls; for by faith we stand (**2 Corinthians 1:24 (KJV)** ²⁴ Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand). We walk by faith (**2 Corinthians 5:7 (KJV)** ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by

QUESTIONS

- 1 Where was Jesus at the time of this lesson?
- 2 To what people was Jesus sent?
- 3 Of what nationality was this woman who came to Jesus?
- 4 What do you consider the greatest trait of character she had?
- 5 How was she rewarded?
- 6 What was Jesus' commendation of her?
- 7 How did Jesus heal the deaf man?
- 8 Since he could not hear, how did he know about Jesus?
- 9 What did the people say about Jesus after these miracles?

sight:), and we live by faith (**Galatians 2:20 (KJV)** ²⁰ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me). In the Book of Hebrews we are told that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, and that without faith it is impossible to please God. Someone has said that a little faith will get you into Heaven, but that great faith will bring Heaven into you.

Bringing Souls to Jesus

The deaf man recorded in this lesson was helpless and could not hear them tell about the wonderful miracles that Jesus was doing. In his pitiful state he did not know there was deliverance for him. It remained for those who did know to bring him to Jesus. Many people are sick and helpless today, lying on beds of affliction in their homes and in hospitals. They have never heard that Jesus can heal or that there is deliverance for them through His precious Blood. It is our duty to tell them the Story and bring them to Jesus.

Power in Christ's Touch

When they brought this man to Jesus they besought Him to lay His hand on the man. They must have realized the power there was in His touch. We read in I Kings 18:46 that "the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel." The power of that hand upon Elijah made him run faster than Ahab could go in his chariot. When Jesus put His finger in the deaf man's ears and touched his tongue and said, "Be opened," straightway his ears were opened and his tongue was loosed and he spoke plainly.

All Things Well

The multitudes were astonished, but it brought forth from their hearts the statement, "He hath done all things well." When we look back and think of all the things He has done for us and the way His hand has been over us and guided us, cannot we say with them, "He hath done all things well"? Jesus did not want popularity, and He charged the people to tell no man; but their hearts were overflowing with joy and gratitude and they published it all the more, for it was too good to keep. When His healing power touches our bodies, or His Blood applied to our hearts sets our sinful souls free, joy fills our souls, and it is too good to keep to ourselves alone. We want others to know. The word "Gospel" means good news, and we want to tell the world about it.