

The Miracles of Jesus

Lesson Twenty-Four

Healing the Daughter of the Syrophenician Woman

Text: Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

Introduction:

1. In our last lesson, we saw how many turned away from Jesus and stopped following Him.
2. We also learned how the Pharisees were angered by His doctrine and desired to kill Him.
3. Following these events, Jesus and His apostles traveled north into the land of Tyre and Sidon.
4. Yet, even in the country of the Gentiles, Jesus continued to perform miracles and preach the Gospel.

I. The Miracle

- A. Jesus sought to escape the publicity of the crowd, for it was not yet time for His death.
- B. However, a woman heard of His presence and sought Him out.
 1. She was a Greek, meaning not a Jew – a Gentile.
 2. She was born in the Phoenician part of Syria; thus, she was also a Canaanite.
 3. There is an interesting connection to the story of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath, a city in Sidon, another Syrophenician woman (1 Kings 17:8-24; cf. Luke 4:24-30).
- C. She asked Jesus to heal her daughter who was troubled by a demon.
- D. Jesus' response to her served both as a test of her faith and a lesson to His disciples.
 1. First, He did not answer her at all.
 2. When the disciples complained about her, Jesus reminded them that he was sent to the "house of Israel."
 - a. They wanted Jesus to "send her away."
 - b. Jesus' words would test her faith, but they would also illustrate the prejudice of His disciples.
 3. Yet, she continued to worship Him and cry out, "Lord, help me."
 4. So, Jesus reminded her that one does not give a child's food to the pet dog.
 - a. The Jews felt that their covenant with God made them better than everyone else. {*They thought that they alone were His children.*}
 - b. Thus, in their thinking, the Gentiles were no better than dogs.
 5. With great wisdom, she replied that even the dogs receive the crumbs that fall from the table.
 6. Her words demonstrated great faith and humility.
- E. Jesus merely spoke and the demon was cast out of her daughter and she was made whole.

II. The Manifestation

- A. Jesus proved His great power and compassion.
- B. He also demonstrated the importance of God's plan – the fullness of the time (Gal. 4:4).

III. The Message

- A. God loves all men – Jew and Gentile!
- B. True faith requires persistence and perseverance.
- C. As sinners, we must acknowledge our worthlessness when compared to Jesus.
- D. Yet, we must not forget the great love and mercy of God!
- E. Contrast her persistent pleading with the easily offended attitude of the Pharisees.