The Canaanitish Woman

Sunday School Lesson for June 12, 1910

Specially Arranged for This Paper

LESSON TEXT.—Matthew 15:21-28. Memory verses, 21, 22.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Great is thy faith; be it unto thee even as thou wilt."—Matt. 15:28.

TIME.—Early summer of A. D. 29, a few weeks after the last lesson.

PLACE.—On the borders of the country of Tyre and Sidon, forty or fifty miles northwest of the Sea of Galilee.

Suggestion and Practical Thought.

Hatred That Repulses Christ.—V. 21. Why did Jesus leave Capernaum and Galilee?

Already at the time of his highest fame, the cloud had arisen that was to cover the whole sky. When, interpreting the feeding of the five thousand, Christ insisted upon spiritual food and not literal bread as the supreme gift to men (John 6:22-71), many even of his disciples were offended and walked no more with him. We have already seen (lesson 7) the delegates from the scribes and Pharisees of Jerusalem as they watched him to catch him in some word or act by which they could bring a charge against him.

What was this charge that the Pharisees sought? That the disciples of Jesus ate with unwashed hands—not hands that we would consider unclean, but hands that had not been washed according to the Pharisaic rules that had grown up.

What position did Christ take regarding such observances? That the Pharisees were hypocritical, wasting their thought and time on empty regulations while they transgressed the real law of God.

What was the importance of this controversy? "These twenty verses (Matt. 15:1-20) sum up the great controversy of the New Testament," that between the religion of the letter and external obstacles and the religion of the heart, between what St Paul calls "the righteousness which is of the law and the righteousness which is of God by (or grounded upon) faith," Phil. 3:9."—Cambridge Bible

What was the effect of the controversy on Christ? This hatred and bitter opposition drove Jesus into retirement again.

Where did he go this time, with his disciples? Into the coasts (borders, region) of Tyre and Sidon. These flourishing seaports, the capitals of Phoenicia, are not far from the Sea of Galilee, Tyre only about 35 and Sidon 55 miles.

Love That Christ Seeks.—V. 22. How did Christ succeed in his plans for rest? "He could not be hid," says Mark

Who broke into our Lord's retreat? As we might expect, a mother! Her daughter (Mark tells us that it was a little girl) was grievously vexed with a devil.

How did this mother approach Jesus? She must have forced her way into the house against opposition. She fell at Christ's feet (Mark) and cried, doubtless over and over: "Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David."

The Suppliant Tested.—Vs. 23-27. Those that pray are usually tested. This is not to inform Christ whether they are sincere or not, since he knows all hearts.

The First Test was the difference in race, nationality and religion. She was by language a Greek (see Mark), and we have no knowledge that our Lord spoke Greek. By nationality she was a Canaanite, of the blood of the original inhabitants of the land, descendants of Ham.

How did the woman overcome these obstacles? By calling Jesus "Lord" and "son of David," thus showing some knowledge of the Jewish Messiah.

The Second Test was silence. "He answered her not a word."

How did this woman meet this test of silence? By her persistence; she continued her beseeching cries.

The Third Test was the opposition of the disciples.

How did Christ answer the disciples' selfish urgings? By a remarkable statement of the unity and restrictions of his mission: "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

How did the mother meet this new obstacle? By ignoring the disciples and going straight to Jesus once more.

The Fourth Test was an absolute denial from the lips of Jesus, or what seemed such: "It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs."

How did the mother meet this obstacle? "Truth, Lord, yet dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table."

The Suppliant Rewarded.—V. 28. How did Jesus receive this saying? With evident and profound satisfaction: "O woman, great is thy faith."

How was the noble mother rewarded for her persistence and faith? By the complete cure of the little girl from that very hour, the precise moment when Christ had pronounced the words of healing.

Illustration. "Everywhere faith, or the capacity of receiving, has a power to claim and demand the thing which it needs. You plant a healthy seed into the ground. The soil acknowledges its power; no sooner does it feel the seed than it replies; it unlocks all its treasures of force; the little hungry black kernel is its master. 'O seed, great is thy faith,' the ground seems to say; 'be it unto thee even as thou wilt;' and so the miracle of growth begins."—Phillips Brooks.

It is persevering. It recognizes the meaning of God's silences, as did the Canaanite of our lesson.

TALES OF GOTHAM AND OTHER CITIES

Snake Routs Woman From Her "Home"

NEW YORK.—Say, if you were a lady wearing a chantecler hat with a horned owl upon it and when you woke up and found a common or garden snake in your lap the horned owl failed to make good by snatching the reptile and flying away with it, what would you do? Wouldn't you give that chantecler the hook? Mary Maloney did, anyway.

Mary Maloney, Battery park's leading settee holder, had just such an experience one day. Mary arrived in Battery Park after closing her apartments on Blackwell's island for the summer. Blackwell's is all very well during the major part of the year, but the really elite make it a point of beating it away with the first hot days, and when it comes to beating it away Mary is in the van.

Immediately on reaching Battery park Mary opened her bungalow, which same is the first bench to the left as you come out of the aquarium. From the slats of her bungalow Mary has a superb view of the harbor, including the Statue of Liberty. The free baths are in the immediate vicinity. Splendid fishing is to be found in the aquarium, and tea is served at five o'clock every afternoon at the harbor squad close by.

Mary certainly has one of the finest spots in Battery park. Other summerers there have cast envious eyes on that bench of hers, but Mary is muscular and so proficient in the gentle art of boxing that to aproach her bench with a view of sitting down upon a small portion of it is about as safe as lounging near an old-fashioned windmill on a breezy day.

Accordingly Mary was inhabiting her bench around noon, indulging in a siesta. Dreamily she opened her eyes and as she awoke refreshed by the cool breeze from off the bay she felt something in contact with her arm. Instantly she sat up and took notice. There was a snake wrapped like a bracelet about her fair wrist.

Well, everybody said afterward that his first thought was how maybe the siren on the fireboat New Yorker had broken its valve. Then it was seen that no fireboat could let out a screech so shrill, and all the settee holders, rising up in alarm, flocked to see what was the matter with Mary.

But they found her strangely composed. She had throttled that serpent with a crook of her little finger and as the reptile cast a dying glance full of anguish at her Mary folded her arms, and, addressing the surrounding populace, remarked:

"Say, do I look like Eve? I knew perfectly well he was real because the ones I see is orange color, and then I don't generally see them, only red, white and blue turkeys with straw hats."

A murmur of admiration arose from Mary's audience at the clearness of her logic and Policemen O'Mara and Flynn, who had hastened to the spot, after batting the vanquished reptile over the head with their nightsticks, held it up for inspection.

"It's a garter," said O'Mara.

"The idea," exclaimed Mary and she withdrew blushing.

When she had been assured that everybody agreed it was a boa she consented to come back.

The serpent was taken up to the Church Street Police station.

"Cop" Thought It Was Raining "Kids"

NEW YORK.—That he is as proficient in catching babies who fall from high windows as burglars, who operate on his beat, was proved recently by Policeman John J. Buckley of the Bedford avenue, Brooklyn, station.

Buckley made the neatest recovery of little "Willie" Brown, who was enticed over the edge of a third story fire escape, by the melodies of a street piano, that has ever been known. This follows another great catch made by Buckley two months ago, when a burglar tried to spoil his fielding average.

Mrs. Agnes Brown, "Willie's" mother, was engaged in another part of her flat at 444 Metropolitan avenue, and did not see her son crawl out on to the fire escape. When she came into the room a minute later, however, she saw him totter and, before she could reach him, fall over the rail.

Her shrieks aroused Policeman Buckley, who was standing in the street below idly twirling his club and watching the children dance to the lively music of a piano. His eye took in the situation in a second. He saw a white bundle descending rapidly. The cessation of the music made the scene almost theatrical. Buckley caught "Willie" in his arms as in a cradle, much to "Willie's" surprise. The baby received a scratch from one of Buckley's brass buttons, but he was otherwise uninjured. He hugged the policeman and laughed just as though it was all in the game.

Mrs. Brown ran down from the third floor and rushed out of the doorway prepared for a tragic spectacle. When she observed her baby on the policeman's shoulder she nearly fainted from joy.

Buckley was heartily complimented by Captain Dooley of the Bedford avenue station, who was informed of the policeman's catch by several eye witnesses, some of whom are still wondering whether they should call "Willie" "out" or call him "safe."

"Kiss Not" Buttons, Style for Girls

CHICAGO.—Kissing is going out of style.

Don't lose your head or your temper if the next time you bid your sweetheart a fond farewell and carefully and gently attempt to implant a loving smack on her ruby lips, instead of yielding with apparent reluctance she proudly displays a glaring button with the words "Kiss Not" emblazoned thereon.

It merely means that she has become a member of the World's Health organization and has signed the following pledge:

"In order to encourage good health and lessen the spread of consumption, I desire to join the World's Health organization, and hereby pledge myself to discourage the custom of kissing on the lips whenever it is in my power."

"Why not stop kissing?" is the question asked in a circular issued by this latest of health fad organizations. "It is a time-honored custom and one person cannot stop it. It is only in unity that sufficient strength can be gained to convince the civilized world that kissing is pernicious and unhealthful."

The rumor that a campaign was to be instituted in the public schools of Chicago to enroll pupils and teachers in the new organization was met with a denial by Superintendent Ella Flagg Young.

"I think more harm is done by calling children's attention to disease than can be offset by the new ideas advanced about kissing," she said. "As to the merits of the scheme to stop the practise of kissing, I cannot say. I am not a doctor. Anyway, I have heard nothing whatever about the plan to introduce the pledges in the schools."

Mrs. Rechtin, 1723 East McMillan street, Cincinnati, is the president of the anti-kissing organization.

Girls to Keep the Boys From Smoking

KANSAS CITY, MO.—"Cigarette smoking is just cooking the brains of the majority of our high school boys," said Prof. E. D. Phillips, principal of the Manual Training high school. "I believe 75 per cent. of the boys of high school age in the city smoke—either pipes or cigarettes. And it shows in their school work.

"The only remedy for this condition among the high school boys lies with the girls. Every normal young man wants to please the girls. If the girls who now permit young men to smoke in their presence would tell the offenders in a pleasant way that it was offensive to them, nine boys out of ten would throw away the cigarette.

"Girls have a powerful influence for good over the boys if they choose to use their influence in that direction. The high school girls of Kansas City could do much to stop smoking among high school boys.

"We can always tell the ones who smoke. They become stupid, irresponsible and almost abnormal after they have persisted in the habit until they become thoroughly saturated with nicotine. Few of the chronic smokers graduate.

"Most of these boys contract the cigarette habit because they think it fashionable. It is a sort of wrinkle just the same as creasing the trousers till they will cut a lemon."

GNAT CAUSES PELLAGRA.

Committee on Disease in Europe Says Corn Is Not to Blame.

London, May 14.—Dr. Sambon, a member of the Field committee which has been investigating the disease pellagra, telegraphs from Rome that the committee has definitely proved that maize or Indian corn is not the cause of pellagra.

The committee finds that the parasitic conveyor of the disease is the "simulium repans," a species of biting gnat.

WHY HE THOUGHT SO.

Willie—Is Mr. Jones near-sighted, mama?

Mama—Not that I know of, dear.

Willie—Well, he always sits so close to sister when they're in the parlor.

A Wonder Worker.

Sapleigh—Ah, speaking of electricity, that makes me think—

Miss Keene—Really, Mr. Sapleigh? Isn't it remarkable what electricity can do!

The Bald-Headed Man.

"The wife's clothes must match the husband's hair this year."

"That's all right; my wife's dresses are always decollette."

Some good men fear the world will forget they are shining if their lamps do not smoke.

His Excellence.

"I tell you," said one man to another as they emerged from the dimly lighted corridor of a concert hall, "I envy that fellow who was singing."

"Envy him!" echoed the other. "Well, if I were going to envy a singer I'd select somebody with a better voice. His was about the poorest I ever heard."

"It's not his voice I envy, man," was the reply. "It's his tremendous courage."—Ladies' Home Journal.

Too many sermons deal out sugar when the world needs moral sand.

Your light goes down as the temperature rises in your neck.

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