

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why was the Syro-Phoenician woman so persistent?
2. Did Jesus at anytime reject the woman's request?
3. How does her problem compare to those of parents today?
4. How long should we pray about a matter?

SUMMARY:

This woman had a great burden, which she brought to the Master, not to complain about or for sympathy, but for mercy. So great was her faith and humility that she was willing to be put into the lowest state, that of a dog. Jesus did not reject the woman's request, but waited until she proved her faith and humility through the asking of help.

Likewise, our faith must be tested by the Lord. The first lesson we should learn from this woman is that we should have the faith to take our problems to the Lord. Secondly, we should be willing to wait for an answer from Him, whether it be affirmative, negative, or wait, according to HIS will. Thirdly, we must put our lives into such position that the Master can use us in His hands to perform His perfect will.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #10

March 9, 2008

First Quarter

THE MASTER REWARDS FAITH

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 15:21-31

LESSON SETTING: In the region of Sidon and Tyre and later along the Sea of Galilee.

TIME: About 28 - 32 A.D.

- I. FAITH THAT PLEADS.** Matthew 15:21-22
 - A. A Problem Brought to the Master (vs. 22) Psalm 55:22; 1 Peter 5:6-7
 - B. Mercy Sought (vs. 22) Mark 10:47; Luke 18:13
- II. FAITH THAT PERSISTS.** Matthew 15:23-27
 - A. The Master's Delay and Testing. 2 Chronicles 32:31; Psalm 40:1; Isaiah 40:31; 1 Peter 1:7
 - B. Earnest and Persistent Prayer. Colossians 4:2; James 5:17
 - C. Humility in Stating Need (vs. 27) Psalm 9:12; 10:17
- III. FAITH THAT PREVAILS.** Matthew 15:28-31
 - A. The Reward for Faith. Matthew 9:2; Luke 8:48; Hebrews 11:6
 - B. God is Glorified (vs. 31) Luke 5:25-26; 2 Thessalonians 1:10

GOLDEN TEXT: *GREAT IS THY FAITH; BE IT UNTO THEE EVEN AS THOU WILT.* Matthew 15:28

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Matthew 15:32-39; 16:1-12

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Exodus 16:1-36; Mark 8:1-21

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ - King and Savior

TOPIC: THE MASTER WARNS AGAINST ERROR

INTRODUCTION:

When leaven is put into dough it ferments, souring it and causing the dough to become light and airy. The dough looks much loftier and more proud than the original humble lump that presented little attractiveness. So it was with the Pharisees and Sadducees. They elevated themselves, being proud and exalted. They wished the people to look up to them and accept their lofty attitude. They had no humility but were as leaven, fermented and sour, causing the people to lose the soundness of the teaching of God's Word and accepting the unholy law of the Pharisees. It had no depth of love or humility in it.

Leaven in God's Word signifies evil and Jesus warned the disciples to recognize the evil existing in the Pharisee's and Sadducee's teachings. The bread which He broke, blessed and multiplied to feed the thousands, was quite different from the leaven the Pharisees offered. It came from His Heavenly Father who sustains life. The Pharisee's bread held only death.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Christ always honors persistent faith.

GOLDEN TEXT: *PROVE ALL THINGS; HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD.*

1 Thessalonians 5:21

Men have always been exposed to many different teachings, religions, ideas and opinions about creation or how the world and universe came to be. Whenever some new discoveries are made, the old conclusions are cast aside. Only the words, laws, prophecies and promises that are contained in the Word of God have stood the test of time. *"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."* (Psalm 118:8) Since man chose knowledge rather than innocence and obedience, he has had the power to discern good or evil, but lacked the power to DO that which is good. We need the Word, the Grace, the Power, and the Spirit of God to *"prove all things; hold fast to that which is good."* *"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."* (Philippians 2:13)

Every spirit prove, O prove ye,
Thus commands He who doth love ye;
If they all by God are taught,
Or in worldly error caught. Z.H. 127:1

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF March 10 – 16

M. *The Master Warns Against Error. Matthew 15:32-39; 16:1-12

T. The Pharisees' Hypocrisy. Matthew 22:15-22

W. The Sadducees' Error. Matthew 22:23-33

T. The Pharisees' Price. Matthew 23:1-12

F. The Pharisee's Error. Matthew 23:13-22

S. The Pharisees Unveiled. Matthew 23:23-33

S. The Judgment on Error. Matthew 23:34-39