Sunday School Lesson

LESSON I.
SERVING OTHER RACES.
Mark 7:24-37.

Golden Text.—God is no respecter of persons. Acts 10:34.

THE LESSON IN ITS SETTING

Time.—Summer, A.D. 29.

Place.—The miracle of healing the daughter of the Syrophoenician woman occurred near the borders of Tyre and Sidon, which could not have been far from the Mediterranean coast in northern Palestine; the healing of the deaf and dumb man occurred somewhere in Decapolis, a territory south of the Sea of Galilee on both sides of the Jordan River.

24. And from thence he arose, and went away into the borders of Tyre and Sidon.

From Capernaum Jesus went to the Phoenician border. And he entered into a house. It might easily have been, and probably was, the house of a friend. And would have no man know it; and he could not be hid. Of course, if Jesus wanted to, he could have actually removed himself suddenly out of the sight of all men, but this would not have been according to the self-imposed limitations of his humanity. The true disciple cannot be hid any more than his Master could. In a truly Christian life Christ cannot be hid—words and actions and abstinences alike tell of him.

Of A Different Race

25. But straightaway a woman, whose little daughter had an unclean spirit, having heard of him, came and fell down at his feet.

26. Now the woman was a Greek, a Syrophoenician by race. The word here translated "a Greek" was "used by the Greeks to designate any Gentile, owing to the wide diffusion of the Greek race and language." "Syrophoenician" is a more particular designation of the race to which she belonged. It denotes that part of Phoenicia which belonged to Syria. And she besought him that he would cast forth the demon out of her daughter. How long before this woman had heard about the Lord Jesus we do not know, but she had heard of him in such a way that she was led to believe that he had power to deliver her possessed daughter from the terrible mastery of the evil being who indwelt her.

The woman would never have come to Jesus had she believed that there was any other hope at all for her daughter's being restored to normal life again. The Lord came to do the things that no one else on earth has ever been able to do, and to deliver us from those powers which are too great for men themselves to defeat.

27. And he said unto her, Let the children first be filled; for it is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to the dogs. Jesus sought to deepen within the woman that humility which is the condition of exaltation, and to render yet warmer that motherly love which had opened her eyes to love divine. Doubtless, had her faith been less strong, her humility less deep, her love less self-forgetful, he would have dealt more tenderly with her, so as not to "break the bruised reed"; but, these qualities being already well developed, he braced her character with the cold yet wholesome wind of seeming discouragement.

"The bread of the children" is the ministry of Jesus and the blessing he dispenses. This bread is for the chosen nation, the Jews. They recline at table while Jesus dispenses his blessings to them. Any little pet dog in the house is not allowed to lie on one of the couches as if he, too, were a child. He is given food in a different way; he is allowed to pick up anything the children may drop while eating at table.

A Beautiful Reply

28. But she answered and saith unto him, Yea, Lord; even the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs. The woman's answer is wonderful in every way. Wholeheartedly she accepts what Jesus says about the arrangement of his Messianic mission as confined to the chosen nation. She understands and consents. She does not even ask why God did as he did. The beauty of the woman's reply is that she keeps entirely to the figurative language of Jesus. With Jesus' own words she renews her appeal, certain that he would not deny what these words hold out to her.

29. And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way. The greatness of this woman's faith was in submissively accepting and in rightly understanding what Jesus said about his Messianic mission. Faith is great in the measure of the reliance it places on the word of Christ. The demon is gone out of thy daughter. The perfect tense of the verb not only implies that the demon is now already out of the girl, but that he had gone out before this.

30. And she went away unto her house, and found the child laid upon the bed, and the demon gone out.

Jesus never uttered any word but with power. Jesus has never made any promise to any one but when that person has fulfilled the conditions involved in the promise, the promise has been kept.

Deaf and Dumb Man

31. And again he went out from the borders of Tyre, and came through Sidon unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the borders of Decapolis. 32. And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech. Deafness and dumbness not only often occur together in the same person, but dumbness is often caused by deafness, especially if the deafness is congenital, because one who has never heard words articulated would hardly be expected to know how to articulate words himself. And they beseech him to lay his hand upon him.

33. And he took him aside from the multitude privately. Christ's purpose was that the man apart from the tumult and interruptions of the crowd, in solitude and silence, might be more receptive of deep and lasting impressions. And put his fingers into his ears. This was true sign language. And he spat, and touched his tongue. Thus, before the Lord actually healed him, the man's attention was drawn to the two great physical handicaps under which he was suffering.

34. And looked up to heaven. He sighed. And saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. The word of command is directed to both the mouth and the ears of the man, for both need to be unbarred. Christ is the Great Opener. He makes our faculties function. He realizes our powers for use.

Faculties Restored

35. And his ears were opened, and the bond of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain. There are only two miracles recorded by Mark alone, this and the recovering of sight to the blind man (8:22-26), and both are peculiar in that the cures were effected, not by a word, but by a process. The deaf-mute may well have received a spark of faith before the almighty word was spoken, but it was not his faith that enabled Jesus to heal him. It was solely the power and will of Jesus. The Old Testament prophets announced that the Messiah, when he came, would be able to open the eyes of the blind and unstop the ears of the deaf (Isa. 35:5; 42:18).

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. It is quite possible that they misunderstood his motives, and set it down to a modest shrinking from the place and popularity, which, in their eyes, was so well determined; and this conception gave them an additional impulse to do what their natural inclinations prompted.

37. And they were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well; he maketh even the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak. Jesus' miracles of healing prophesy to us of a future world, in which there will be no deaf and blind, and, in fact, no more sickness and no more pain, not a world of disembodied spirits who need no eyes and ears, but a world of men, who are redeemed both in body and soul.

Leading opera singers of Russia are helping film Dzerzhinsky's opera "Quiet Don" in Leningrad and the composer is adapting the opera to the screen as well as writing new music for additional scenes.

Back At Post In Rome

The Earl of Perth, British Ambassador to Italy, returns to Rome to begin Anglo-Italian conferences, after having discussed the situation in Europe with Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, in London.

The King's Daughters Make A Tour Of London

Princess Elizabeth, left, and Princess Margaret Rose of England, leave Westminster Abbey, one of the stops on their recent educational tour of London. Queen Mary acted as guide.

Canada's New Front Door Opens Across The Arctic

Dominion Enjoys Unique Situation As Link Between North America and Asia By the Shortest Route Across the Pole.

Canada and Russia are neighbors across the Arctic Ocean. It is less than 2,000 miles from the Canadian mainland to the Siberian coast; and not more than 1,200 miles from the tip the northernmost Russian island, or of Canada's northernmost island to about as far as from Toronto to Winnipeg. But this is not all, writes D. M. LeBourdais in the Canadian Magazine: the shortest distances between Canada—or the United States, for that matter—and any part of Europe or Asia are northward.

Nearer World Centre

Think of what that means to us in Canada! It means that we are nearer to the coming world centre than the people of the United States. Looking at the globe, with the North Pole and Arctic Ocean in the centre, we see Canada on one side of this smallest of the oceans and Northern Europe and Northern Asia on the other, while the United States, Southern Europe and Southern Asia occupy a zone farther removed from the centre. Thus to fly from the United States to Europe or Asia by the shortest route, one must cross Canada and the Arctic or sub-Arctic regions.

Most of the obstacles to successful flying across the Arctic are mechanical, and apply to flying anywhere. Eventually these obstacles will be overcome; and then the Arctic will have the inestimable advantage of shorter distances. The airplane is about to change the shape of the world. And Canada is toward the hub!

From Vancouver to Liverpool, across Canada north of Hudson Bay, and thence by way of Baffin Island, Greenland and Iceland, is about 4,300 miles; by rail and steamer, via Montreal, it is 6,100 miles. From New York to Leningrad, across Labrador, Greenland and Iceland, is also about 4,300 miles, while the distance by ship would be about 5,300 miles. From Liverpool to Yokohama, across the Arctic, the distance is about 6,500 miles, while by steamer and rail, via Montreal and Vancouver, the distance is 9,928 miles.

When the time comes, as inevitably it will, that planes can be counted upon, as a matter of course, to stand the day-to-day strain of long-distance flying; and when a sufficient number of radio-equipped meteorological stations are established along the way, flying across the Arctic will become as commonplace an event as it now is to fly between Edmonton and Aklavik, or between London and Paris.

ridironed With Air Routes

Then will Canada's back door become its front door. Then may Canadians, who for so long have gazed enviously southward toward the supposedly green fields of the United States, turn their eyes northward and for the first time survey with satisfaction the broad expanse of their own country. It does not require a prophet to predict that within the lifetime of most of you who read these lines the Canadian North will be gridironed with air routes connecting United States and Canadian points with important points in Asia and Europe. The shortest route will win in the end!

IS THIS YOUR BIRTHDAY?

By A. R. WEIR

What the Stars Foretell for those born on April 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Zodiac Sign, Aries.

You would make a good auctioneer, designer, promoter or salesman. Your lucky birthstones are the amethyst and the diamond. Socially the year is not of the brightest but from a business standpoint is a successful and prosperous period. If you do not live up to your highest ideal, lift yourself above mundane things, you will be exacting and jealous. Restrictions and disputes with older people annoy you. You do not stop at anything, difficulties do not deter you, you fight your way through.

For complete birthday horoscope for any birth date in the year, send 10c to A. R. Weir, 73 Adelaide St. W., Toronto. Please print your name and address plainly.

Duke of Windsor Has Big Income

It Is Claimed He Draws $280,000 a Year — Duchess Thought Chateau "Too Regal" For Them.

PARIS. — Before the Duke and Duchess chose the Chateau de la Maye, a modern structure of indifferent Louis XIII style, it had been expected they would settle down in one of the fine historical chateaux that abound in the vicinity of Paris.

For a time it was expected they would take the Chateau de Grosbois, which was given by Napoleon to Marshal Bertier, but the duchess, having gone through the magnificent rooms and extensive grounds, declared the setting was "too regal" for "David and myself."

Although they often complain about money, the Windsors are quite well off. They received a lump sum of about $4,500,000 in consideration of a transfer to King George of Sandringham and Balmoral, which their father had left to the Duke of Windsor in his will. The duke receives an annuity of $125,000, so his total income is about $280,000 a year.

How Bee Stings Can Give Relief

The belief has long been prevalent that the sting of a bee is helpful to sufferers from rheumatism and some experiments have been made to see if there is any basis for the belief. Indications were found that it might be of some aid. An extended series of tests were made at the New York Hospital and Cornell University Medical College by Dr. Jacques Kroner and a number of associates in which an extract of bee venom was used in treating 100 cases of rheumatoid arthritis.

Weekly Skin Injections

The investigators report in "The Annals of Internal Medicine" that seventy-three of the patients showed improvement, thirty-five of them markedly improved and thirty-eight moderately improved. They reported a definite and lasting relief from pain and swelling. A diluted extract of the venom was injected into the skin weekly.

The greatest improvement was found in the cases that continued the treatment for the longest periods, the longest being about five months. The nature of the active material in the venom has not been determined. The extract used was made by Dr. August Wolff, of Bielefeld, Germany.

Around The Dial

RADIO HEADLINERS OF THE WEEK

By FRANK DENNIS

The picture heading this week's column is that of Jimmie Allen, hero of the new Kiddies serial heard from coast to coast. The serial is clean, exciting and thrilling—yet without the sour taste of murders and cop-killing bandits. The producers of the Jimmie Allen serial have been saluted by parent-teacher organizations throughout Canada and child psychologists have added their support to this program. Jimmie Allen is heard Monday through Friday over CBL, Toronto and CKLW, Windsor, at 5:45 p.m., and over CBO, Ottawa at 6:00 p.m.

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Goo-Goo Eyes

Eddie Cantor's new series started last Monday for Camel Cigarettes. The new show, Cantor's Camel Caravan will feature the famous goo-goo eyed comedian, Deanna Durbin, Edgar Fairchild's orchestra with the famous two piano team of Fairchild and Carrol, Benny Goodman's Quartet, Bert Gordon, the Mad Russian and Walter King announcing. The time 7:30 to 8:00 p.m.

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Mangled Melodramas, Professor Boner's new show, is a new feature on the local airwaves. It's a pretty fair performance, and Joseph, the sound man, does make a lot of wrong noises. 15 prizes are offered listeners for writing in and giving a title to the play. Each prize consists of six pounds of biscuits . . . The station—CBL, 7:45 to 8:00 Sundays.

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The picture of the boy-accordionist is that of Eddie Allen, who was recently heard on the Dr. Jackson Airbreak Show. Eddie is one of the finalists that will compete for the trip to New York prize on April 1st broadcast. The judges will certainly have a tough time trying to select a winner because the calibre of the talent presented on these programs is high, and one sounds as good as the other. However, listeners will have their say in the matter—for they send in votes. If it is a tie—the judges will step in—otherwise, it's what the votes say. Airbreaks is heard every Friday over CFRB, Toronto, 8:30 to 9:00.

Million Volt X-ray Kills Cancer Forms

It Is Discovered By Boston Scientists, But Results Cannot Be Considered As Cure.

Physicians who have been treating cancer patients under a million volt X-ray machine, the only one of its type in the world, report "surprising results" during the first six months of experimentation.

Some Forms Vanish

Under the treatment, doctors at Huntington Memorial Hospital, Boston, reported in the New England Medical Journal last week, certain forms of cancer had been found to disappear completely. They emphasized that their results could not be considered as a cure and stated only that on the basis of 100 cases treated, in certain types of cancer the symptoms had disappeared and the sufferers appeared well today.

They hope that ultimately treatments as intensive as those given with radium will be possible, and are looking forward to the development of a 2,500,000 volt X-ray machine. The treatment would be quicker and cheaper, they said, and pointed out that there is not enough radium to meet requirements.

Permanence Indefinite

The doctors cited the results achieved with their first case, a patient given "only a few weeks to live" when brought to the hospital. The patient showed improvement under the powerful machine, they said, and "today is clinically free from cancer."

Whether the cure will be permanent is a question the physicians do not expect they will be able to answer for years.

February Trade Records Decline

OTTAWA.—The National Revenue Department has issued figures showing Canada's export trade in February dropped more than $14,000,000 in the yearly comparison though the figure for the first 11 months of the fiscal year ending on March 31 showed a rise of more than $23,000,000 above that of the corresponding previous period.

The figure for February was $60,155,402 compared to $74,791,596 a year before. The 11 months' export trade was worth $996,009,201 compared with $972,855,377.

Russia has 104 children's theatres.

Belgium now has 65,000 motorcycles.

Wages lost through sickness in England last year totalled $500,000,000.

Your Handwriting Tells The Truth About Your Character!

By LAWRENCE HIBBERT

(Psychologist, Character-Analyst and Lecturer)

HAVE YOU A PLEASING PERSONALITY?

Personality is a charmed possession that we all seek, but which few of us acquire. Yet most of us have it within our power to gain the cherished circle—if we go to a little trouble to attain it.

The first step is to go on an exploration—discover yourself; "take yourself apart" and and find out what makes you go. Be honest about it. If you aren't, you are rather like the man who cheats when playing that solo card game, "Patience"—he merely cheats himself!

Find out what positive qualities you possess, such as generosity, sincerity, friendliness, honour, loyalty, thoughtfulness, leadership.

Then dissect your negative points mercilessly. Are you slothful, procrastinating, malicious, bad-tempered, sarcastic, domineering (or the obverse trait, which is equally unpleasant—sycophantic), brutal, selfish or boastful?

It is now a simple matter to ascertain which positive qualities need to be strengthened, and conversely, which negative traits you hope to eliminate.

Then set to work on them—and persevere.

The weak link in this exercise is that, with the best will in the world, few of us are fundamentally able to see ourselves as others see us—as we really are. We are so prone to deceive ourselves, often quite unintentionally.

Some time ago I had a letter from a man who sent me his wife's writing, with these remarks: "Frankly we seem to have reached a point where our happiness and home are at stake. As a last chance I am hoping your analysis of my wife's character will open her eyes to what she is doing and encourage her to change for the better."

When I examined the two writings I quickly saw that instead of the wife being to blame, the contrary was the case. The husband was a rather domineering person with an overpowering sense of self-importance. He could see no point but his own. It was easy to see how friction was rife in that home.

I heard later from the wife. She told me that my analysis was a terrific shock to her husband, and although he was unable to transform himself completely, at least he modified his character to a point where their domestic felicity was more or less restored.

A handwriting analysis can help YOU to develop a pleasant personality by revealing the truth about your character.

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Would you like a personally prepared analysis of your character by this well-known writer? Perhaps, too, you have friends, a sweetheart or relative whose handwriting you'd like analysed. Enclose 10c for EACH specimen (coin or postal note preferred) to help defray handling charges. Enclose with stamped addressed envelope to: Lawrence Hibbert, Room 421, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto, Ont. Replies will be forwarded as quickly as possible.