

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

The Syrophenician Woman's Daughter Healed

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

—Matthew 15:21-28.

Concerning the statement made by Christ Jesus that: "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel," Dr. George M. Lamsa, the eminent Aramaic authority, explains in his *Gospel Light* that: "Racial and religious feeling is strong in eastern lands Sympathy for or a kind word to any person by a religious leader of a different faith is not tolerated by anyone Jesus had no feeling of enmity toward Gentiles though he adhered to a certain degree to Jewish social customs and manners. A sudden departure from the established traditions would have roused the hatred of the Pharisees and priests. His motives would not have been understood even by his disciples and the public

would have repudiated him as a traitor. This is the reason why Jesus sent his disciples first to the people of Israel."

However, occult philosophy reveals to us that the Being talking to the Syrophenician woman was not Jesus, a member of the human life wave. It was *Christ Jesus*, a Ray of the Cosmic Christ, ensouled in the physical body of the man Jesus, and He came to dispel racial barriers and replace them with unity and brotherhood. Although He wisely refrained from openly flouting accepted customs and traditions when it would have defeated His purpose of leading the people into a higher teaching to have done so, He was particularly anxious to reach the "lost sheep of the House of Israel" because He knew how deeply embedded they were in the race. That was why the man Jesus was born in a Jewish body.

When Christ Jesus answered the woman's entreaties for help by saying, "It is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to dogs," He indicated that she did not yet possess sufficient spiritual understanding to receive the deeper teaching (bread) of the inner group (children). Nevertheless, when she indicated by her reply that she had made the decision to follow the Path leading to discipleship, He rewarded her faith by healing her daughter immediately.

Thus are we assured of the power of the Spirit to overcome all barriers—when our faith and dedication are sufficient. No real healing is possible, however, unless the patient does his or her part, for the very need of healing indicates that one has trespassed upon the divine laws governing our existence and must learn to conform to them.

