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GOSPEL STANDARD METHODISTS

Prayer meeting address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham on
Saturday evening 22.9.73

73/DD

Hymn 731

Reading: Matthew 15.21-31

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The Lord Jesus wrought many miracles when He was upon this earth, and these miracles are evidence and proof of His divinity. They were many in number and of various kinds. All kinds of diseases were healed, and some were raised from death to life, the blind were given sight, the deaf their hearing, the dead were raised to life, prisoners were brought out of prison, and the gospel was preached unto them.

Here, we have the case of a poor woman who came unto the Lord with her case and the effects thereof. I would like just to mention three points in this remarkable case, and the first of these consist in her venture. She came out of the coasts of Canaan, and "Cried unto Him saying, have mercy on me, O Lord, Thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil." It was a great venture on her part. She had heard of Him, and undoubtedly believed in Him, so she came, not knowing what the issue of her venture might be. So it has been with many of the Lord's people, and may be with some even now, even some here. Burdens press, heavy afflictions are upon us here and there, and these are matters with which as helped we venture before the Lord as did this poor woman concerning her daughter who was grievously vexed with a devil.

The second point consists in her trial. The Lord dealt in various ways with the people who came to Him, but I do not know of anyone, who came with a grain of faith in their heart, who was sent away disappointed. Now there was a trial connected with this poor woman's venture, she came crying and pleading, "But He answered her not a word". Although she did not get what she wanted straight away, she pressed her case, but when the Lord did speak it was not very confirming was it, for notwithstanding her pleading and praying, there was no response: "He answered her not a word". This may be the experience of some of the Lord's people here now. A heavy burden presses, God is silent, the case is urgent, but the Lord had a purpose in this woman's trial to bring to light the faith which was in her, to make it more openly manifest.

The third point is her victory, for at the conclusion the Lord 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."

Now, some here may be coming, some may be waiting, some may be pleading with the Lord in prayer, and others, it may be, are under a trial of faith as was this woman, but her venture was worth while. The victory proved to be for her great comfort and joy, and so in considering this case we may have some encouragement under afflictions trials and sorrows, when the Lord is silent in them, to continue waiting upon Him, to seek for faith to put our trust in Him, for according to His own promise, those who come to Him in the power of faith will not be cast away. Amen.