

Lectio Divina

August 20th 2023 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time– Year A – Matthew 15:21-28

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.’ ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.’ ²⁴He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, ‘Lord, help me.’ ²⁶He answered, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ ²⁷She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.’ ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel.➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life | <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do |
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In this week’s gospel we see Jesus having met with rejection from the Pharisees goes to Gentile territory and encounters faith in an unexpected place, in the Canaanite woman. His mission had previously been to his own people. The Canaanite woman was not concerned for herself but for her daughter. Her faith and persistence caught the attention of Jesus and her daughter was cured.

Have you had times in your life when a chance encounter set your life off in a new direction?

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for all the people whose great faith is a strength for us. Their commitment and belief even though they often have to make a nuisance of themselves to let us know how Jesus cares for us.

Forgive us Lord for the times we feel we do not belong in our community because of discouragement instead of having the faith of the Canaenite woman.

Help us Lord to be a source of strength to people and nourish them in their faith with Your help.

