

August 16th 2026 20th Sunday Ordinary Time – Year A Matthew 15:21-28

¹⁵⁻²¹Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²²A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”

²³Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”

²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”

²⁵The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said.

²⁶He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

²⁷“Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

²⁸Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel. ➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life.	➤ 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.