



August 20, 2017 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 118 Gospel MT 15:21-28

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her. Jesus' disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me." He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.

Spiritual Reflection: Sometimes when I read this Gospel passage, I cannot help but be a little bit afraid because at first it seems to look like Jesus is doing things our ways. The people tell Him to get rid of the woman and He begins to but in the end it turns out to be Jesus actually teaching his disciples a lesson by revealing to them that this woman had more faith than they did.

Spiritual Questions:

1. What does a believer look like?
2. How scary would it be if God actually answered all our prayers?
3. How is the woman a model of faith?
4. What would the disciples had missed out if Jesus had sent the woman away?
5. Who in the parish do you think you should get to know better?