

Living FAITH



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A Secondary

“A Woman’s Faith”

God of Wondrous Deeds,
As we listen to Your word,
help fuel our determination and courage,
so that we may be change makers, full of love and hope.
We make this prayer in Jesus’ name.
Amen.

WE LISTEN

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (15:21-28)

A Woman’s Faith

Jesus left and went to the territory near the cities of Tyre and Sidon. Suddenly a Canaanite woman from there came out shouting, “Lord and Son of David, have pity on me! My daughter is full of demons.” Jesus did not say a word. But the woman kept following along and shouting, so his disciples came up and asked him to send her away.

Jesus said, “I was sent only to the people of Israel! They are like a flock of lost sheep.”

The woman came closer. Then she knelt down and begged, “Please help me, Lord!”

Jesus replied, “It isn’t right to take food away from children and feed it to dogs.”

“Lord, that’s true,” the woman said, “but even dogs get the crumbs that fall from their owner’s table.”

Jesus answered, “Dear woman, you really do have a lot of faith, and you will be given what you want.” At that moment her daughter was healed.

For courage
to stand up for what is right.
Lord, hear us.

For hope
that You hear the prayers of our hearts.
Lord, hear us.

For faith
that we can make a difference.
Lord, hear us.

For our own needs...
Lord, hear us.



Living FAITH



WE REFLECT

Today's Gospel reading can be hard to understand. The loving, patient, compassionate and supportive Jesus in Mark's Gospel that we have been journeying with over these last few weeks, seems to have been replaced with someone who is actually quite rude and even a little bit judgemental.

We have to understand though, that up to this point, Jesus was focused on the Israelite people and their relationship with God. He hadn't really considered that his message might speak to people of other faith traditions and cultures, nor did he realise that someone who was not Jewish would have such strong faith in him. The truth is, we have all been guilty of misjudging someone without really getting to know them or dismissing them by saying "you wouldn't get it", or "you wouldn't understand" without even giving them a chance.

What is remarkable about the woman however, is that she was not going to take no for an answer. Her faith fuelled her determination, courage and hope, so much so, that she not only challenged Jesus to pay attention to her but inspired him into action. That is the kind of faith that moves mountains, the kind of faith that Jesus encourages us all to have. What would happen if we all went out into the world fuelled by faith and inspiring people into action? What would happen if **you** went out into the world fuelled by faith and championing change? Why not find out?

WE ARE SENT FORTH

God of Courage and Hope,
We give thanks for the many things we have been blessed with.
Help us to be Your voice
as we listen to the Good News and proclaim it for others.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, the Living Word.
Amen.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

***"Be faithful in small things because it is in them
that your strength lies."***

- Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Hands Praying by Jude Beck

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Scripture quotations taken from the Contemporary English Version

