



A weekly reflection by members of the Precious Blood Community

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“Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” (Mt 15:28)

This Gospel tells the story of a Canaanite woman who approached Jesus seeking help for her demon-tormented daughter. At first, Jesus seemed unresponsive to her plea but then engaged in a conversation with her.

Initially, Jesus stated that he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, implying that his ministry was primarily focused on the Jewish people. However, the woman persisted and showed her faith by humbly acknowledging Jesus as Lord and asking for his help. Jesus responded with a metaphorical statement about taking the food of the children and throwing it to the dogs, referring to the priority of his mission towards the Jews.

The woman's response was humble yet determined. She recognized that even the scraps falling from the table could sustain the dogs. This persistent and humble faith impressed Jesus, and he commended her, remarking, "O woman, great is your faith!" In response to her faith, Jesus granted her request, and her daughter was healed.

This passage teaches us several important lessons. Firstly, it highlights the power of persistence and faith in our prayers. Despite initial rejection and apparent indifference, the woman continued to seek Jesus' help, demonstrating unwavering faith. Secondly, it reveals Jesus' compassion and willingness to extend his healing power beyond the intended audience. Although his primary mission was to the Jews, this encounter shows that Jesus' grace and mercy extend to all who approach him in genuine faith.

Additionally, this passage challenges us to examine our own hearts and prejudices. Jesus' statement referring to the Canaanite woman as a "dog" was likely a common proverbial expression of the time. However, the woman's wise response helped Jesus see beyond cultural boundaries and appreciate the depth of her faith. It serves as a reminder for us to be open-minded and inclusive, recognizing that God's love and grace are available to everyone.

In conclusion, this story of the Canaanite woman demonstrates the transformative power of faith, persistence in prayer, and Jesus' willingness to respond to those who approach him with humility and trust. It encourages us to have faith that we can find hope, healing, and acceptance in Jesus Christ regardless of our background or circumstances.

Dr. Nicholas Palisch is in formation to become an ASC Associate

This weekly reflection is made available to all who are part of our Precious Blood family. Feel free to share it with others. Would you be willing to write a reflection? If so, please contact Vicky Otto at votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org