



# Daily Reflections

**February 8, 2018**

---

## Scripture

### **Mark 7: 24-30**

Jesus went to the district of Tyre.

He entered a house and wanted no one to know about it, but he could not escape notice.

Soon a woman whose daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him. She came and fell at his feet.

The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by birth, and she begged him to drive the demon out of her daughter.

He said to her, "Let the children be fed first.

For it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs."

She replied and said to him,

"Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's scraps."

Then he said to her, "For saying this, you may go.

The demon has gone out of your daughter."

When the woman went home, she found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

---

## Our Scripture Reflection

Why did Jesus respond to the desperate plea of the Gentile (Syrophenician) woman? Because of her persistent faith. She would not accept "no" as an answer. Amazed, Jesus gave her what she needed.

## **Food for your Journey**

In a piece I wrote for Reader's Digest not long ago, I gave what seemed to me a particularly interesting true example of renewal. The man in question was 53 years old. Most of his adult life had been a losing struggle against debt and misfortune. In military service, he received a battlefield injury that denied him the use of his left arm. And he was seized and held in captivity for five years. Later he held two government jobs, succeeding at neither. At 53, he was in prison -- and not for the first time. There in prison, he decided to write a book, driven by heaven knows what motive --boredom, the hope of gain, emotional release, creative impulse, who can say? And the book turned out to be one of the greatest ever written, a book that has enthralled the world for over 350 years. The prisoner was Cervantes; the book, Don Quixote.

Another example was Pope John XXIII, a serious man who found a lot to laugh about. The son of peasant farmers, he once said, "In Italy there are three roads to poverty --drinking, gambling and farming. My family chose the slowest of the three." When someone asked him how many people worked in the Vatican, he said, "Oh, about half." He was 76 years old when he was elected pope.

--John W. Gardner,

"Self-Renewal,"

The Futurist 30

(November-December 1996), 12.

---

### **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, You love me and listen to my prayers. Like the woman in today's Gospel, help me to never give up and to trust You in all things. Amen