



Daily Reflections

August 8, 2018

Scripture

Matthew 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 he did not say a word in answer to her.
His 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 him 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 her daughter was healed from that hour.

Our Scripture Reflection

Why didn't the pesky pagan Canaanite woman just go away when after having begged Jesus for help He responded by telling her that his mission was not for Gentiles but only for Jews? Wasn't she embarrassed by His refusal? She was much more than simply thick-skinned. What captured Jesus' attention and moved Him to help her was her persistent faith. Even though she was considered an outcast by the Apostles, she was a model of true faith for them and for us.

Food for your Journey

When people are afflicted with persistent illness, they often try anything to get rid of it. They don't necessarily believe the quackery, it's just that they figure they have nothing to lose, so why not?

My grandmother wore copper bracelets for her arthritis in accordance with a then-popular folk cure. She wore them not because they offered any relief, but simply because she figured they couldn't hurt anything and they just might help. Finally, she stopped wearing them when her doctor convinced her that she had an adverse reaction to the copper. Then she started drinking a mixture of vinegar and honey, which was supposed to do the same thing. It didn't help either, but it didn't hurt anything.

So in many cases when desperate people come to Jesus for help, he makes them examine their motives: In effect, he asks them, "Do you really believe that I can do this, or am I just another copper bracelet?"

--Ken Collins, "Scraps from the table," August 10, 1996

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, When I find myself in need may I always remember Your promise to be with me until the end of time. May I remain faithful to You over the long haul as You are always faithful to me. Amen