August 7, 2019

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

What was Jesus to do about this pesky, pagan woman? After all, He had just told His disciples (Matthew 10:6) that their mission was ONLY to the “lost sheep of the House of Israel. However, when He “appears” to rebuke her, she persists in her begging. Jesus is amazed at her “Great Faith” and promptly heals her daughter. His message for us?
1. Jesus came to save ALL people.
2. Like the woman we must be persistent in our prayer and never give up no matter how frustrated we may be.

**Food for your Journey**

Christians didn't outargue pagans -- they outlived them ... Christianity made no attempts to conquer paganism and dead Judaism by reacting blow by blow. Instead, the Christians of the first century outthought, outprayed and outlived the unbelievers. Their weapons were positive, not negative. As far as we know, they did not hold protests or conduct boycotts. They did not put on campaigns to try to unseat the emperor. Instead, they prayed and preached and proclaimed the message of Christ, put to death on the cross, risen from the dead, and ready to change lives. And they backed up their message with actions: giving, loving.


**A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, May I always remember that You listen to me. You are always attentive to my words of pleading. Strengthen my faith so that I may never give up and learn to trust You in all things.

Amen