

Homily for 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 16, 2020
Matthew 15: 21-28
The faith of a Canaanite Woman
Deacon Victor Mesta

Today's Gospel tells us about a Canaanite woman, and it is important to note that the Canaanites were Gentiles to the Jews.

However, we have heard that this Canaanite woman went in search of Jesus, and asked for his help. She does it screaming "Lord, son of David, have mercy on me"

She is a gentile but she has faith, faith in Jesus, and she knows that he will listen to her.

And this woman, when she addresses Jesus, does it with deep humility. She asks Jesus for help, but also acknowledges that she has no right to this help. However, she knows that Jesus can cure her daughter and pleads for his benevolence, and his mercy.

Brothers and sisters, this woman, shows each one of us what it is to have a firm faith, and what it is to be patient and perseverant, because being patient is a vital part of trusting in God.

This gentile woman, Brothers and Sisters, also teaches us not to be discouraged when God does not respond to us immediately; when it seems that He is not listening to our requests, when we believe that God is indifferent to our needs ... brothers and sisters never be discouraged for that.

Many times we wonder if our sins are blocking our petitions to our Father, and the doubts appear in our hearts.

But if we observe the attitude of the Canaanite woman, we will see that her faith goes further than ours.

Brothers and sisters, this Canaanite woman cries out and begs Jesus "have mercy on me." And yet Jesus did not reply to her immediately, but this delay did not discourage this woman's faith. Her patience and perseverance remained firm.

And Jesus, at the end, performed the miracle for her saying, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.". And at that very moment her daughter was cured.

Brothers and Sisters, faith, humility, and patience make this woman admirable, and this is the lesson that God leaves us today, faith, humility, and patience this what we must have in our hearts faith, humility, and patience ... Amen