

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A (Mt 15: 21-28)

15th & 16th of August 2026

Dear friends,

Have you ever felt like God was completely ignoring your prayers? You cry out in tears, you beg for help, but all you hear back is total silence. That is exactly where today's Gospel begins.

In today's scripture, we meet a Canaanite woman who is helpless. Her daughter is suffering terribly, tormented by a demon. She cries out to Jesus, calling Him the "Lord, Son of David". She has strong faith, even though she is an outsider.

But Jesus does something surprising. He stays silent. He does not answer her word. Even His disciples want to send her away because her crying is making a scene. When Jesus finally speaks, He says He was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.

Imagine how she felt. She could have walked away, hurt, angry, or rejected. But instead, she does something beautiful. She comes closer, does Him homage, and says simply, "Lord, help me."

Even when Jesus uses a tough parable about not throwing the children's food to the dogs, she does not take offense. She responds with ultimate humility and cleverness: "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." She knew that just a tiny bit of Jesus' power and mercy was more than enough to heal her daughter. Jesus praises her great faith and grants her request instantly.

This woman reminds me of a young father named Thomas. His small business failed, and for months, he could not find work to feed his family. Every single night, he prayed on his knees, but nothing changed. He felt completely ignored by God.

One evening, his six-year-old daughter saw him crying. She handed him her coin box, filled with just a few coins, and said, "Daddy, give this to God so He can fix it."

Thomas wept, realizing his daughter didn't need a fortune; she just trusted completely. He offered those few coins to God in prayer, surrendering his pride. The very next morning, an old friend surprised him by calling with a job offer. Like the woman in the Gospel, Thomas learned that when we bring our tiny scraps of trust to God, He multiplies them into blessings.

Sometimes, God seems silent when we pray. This silence is not a rejection. It is an invitation to come closer, just like the Canaanite woman did. It is a test that stretches our faith, making it stronger and purer. God wants us to depend on Him completely, knowing that even His smallest blessings can change our lives.

Let us pray

Lord Jesus, increase our faith. When you seem silent, help us to keep trusting you. Give us the humility to accept your will and the persistence to keep praying. Amen.