

20th Sunday – Ordinary Time – Year A

LMGM	Broadman Hymnal
199 Blessed Assurance	334 Blessed Assurance
179 Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior	176 Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior
45 Near The Cross	33 To God Be the Glory

All written by Fanny Crosby – have you ever heard of Fanny Crosby?

Fanny Crosby wrote 8000 Hymns and Poems in her lifetime

- Fanny Crosby was blind
- Because she was blind, all her life she heard
 - o You can't do this – You can't do that
 - o Give up, that's too hard – DESPAIR COMES FROM THE EVIL ONE
 - o She actually wrote a song 'Never Give Up'
 - o She said "Blindness cannot keep the sunlight of hope from the trusting soul"
 - o She had faith – she put her trust in God to get her thru tough times & He did

Our Gospel today is story about another woman of great faith – the Canaanite Woman

As Canaanite – a Gentile – Jews would have very little to do with Gentiles

Canaanite Woman comes to Jesus – in faith – pleading for her daughter

She asks 3x – each time she gets a different response.

1st time – nothing “Jesus did not say a word in answer to her”

Has that ever happened to you in prayer?

You bring your needs – nothing **Listen it's not a NO**

Jesus was a teacher – He taught the crowds, parables

She may have been at the Sermon on the Mount

& now the teacher says nothing

- In school, the only time the teacher is silent is during a test

Watch how Jesus teaches her, by testing her

2nd time – the disciples go to Jesus – “she keeps calling out after us”

She uses INTERCESSION

We do the same thing – prayer to the Saints, who intercede for us.

This time she is rebuked – **Listen it's not a NO**

3rd time – She says “Jesus, even a scrap from *your* table would be enough”

GREAT IS YOUR FAITH

What happened here?

SHE GREW – from expressing her need, to expressing her faith.

When we pray – do we bring God our needs and nothing else?

Or do we express our faith – that Jesus is Lord – the source of all creation

The source of our salvation & because He is a God of Love & compassion
we bring Him our needs.

Was Jesus' silence a ploy to get her to grow her faith by expressing it?

(the same can be said about the rebuke)

God yearns for us to come closer and He'll use silence – or rebuke – or
whatever it takes to make that happen.

He wants us to express our faith in Him, our belief in Him

So he can rejoice with us saying – GREAT IS YOUR FAITH