

20th Sunday – Ordinary Time – Year A

We belong to a Catholic Church

A Universal Church

An Inclusive Church

At the time of Isaiah - Jews believed God was *exclusively* God of Israel

Isaiah brings a new prophecy:

“Foreigners who join themselves to the Lord will be brought to God’s holy mountain and their burnt offerings, their sacrifices will be acceptable to the Lord” NEW STUFF

God embracing all people – going beyond the Jews to embrace everyone

*This becomes a reality in the Gospel*

A woman comes to Jesus – a Canaanite woman (Today a Palestinian).

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

**1<sup>st</sup> 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

- When you’re in school, the only time the teacher is silent is during the test – **know that is true in prayer too.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> time** – the disciples go to Jesus – “she keeps calling out after us”

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**

**3<sup>rd</sup> time** – “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?  
(& 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

Isaiah’s prophecy can be fulfilled in US - Alleluia