



XX SUNDAY

20th of August 2023 - Cycle A



## WOMAN, HOW GREAT IS YOUR FAITH



### SETTING

We all, we all fit in this Church! Pope Francis has forcefully pronounced these words at WYD'23, in Lisbon. There is room for everyone and if there is no, you have to do it.

It is a good time to make us aware of the universality of the message that Jesus brings.

We are all in need of God's mercy. The Gospel, the Good News of God is open to all. If God leaves no one out, all of us we know what we have to do. And if it fits with more reasons, with the neediest, remote, apparently non-believers.

The God of life, of infinite humanity, is pleased with that simple, close, welcoming that values each one as they are, and empowers them to be the best version of themselves.

That Culture of Hospitality is possible, which is universal and therefore for everyone. We each contribute our talent, enthusiasm and hope.

**SONG. I am not a worrier – Sanctus real**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXv82dHU\\_GA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXv82dHU_GA)

## **GOSPEL – Mathew 15, 21 - 28**

“Leaving there, Jesus withdrew toward the region of Tiro and Sidon. In this, a Canaanite woman, who had left that territory, shouted saying: “Have mercy on me Lord, son of David! My daughter is badly demonized.” But he did not answer her. His disciples, approaching, begged him: "Give it to her, she comes shouting after us." He answered, "I have not been sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." She, however, came to prostrate herself before him and said: "Lord, help me!" He replied: "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." “Yes, Lord - she replied -, but the dogs also eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith; let it happen to you as you wish." And from that moment his daughter was cured."

### **To deepen the message of the Word** (*Marie-Noëlle Thabut*)

It is interesting to see that this scene occurs immediately after a teaching by Jesus about purity. It is well known that, in the Jewish world, purity is not the absence of sin, but the attitude to adopt to get closer to God, when in reality; bad intentions come from the heart.. That is where it comes from what makes the man be unclean." (Mt 15, 19-21).

- In fact, it is just after this controversy, when Jesus decides to go to pagan territory, precisely there, where the whole world is impure in the eyes of the Jews since no one respects the purity rules of the Jewish law. This Canaanite woman, who comes to meet Jesus, is a pagan; however, she does not hesitate to address him to ask him to heal her daughter: “Have mercy on me, Lord, son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon."
- Curiously, Jesus does not answer; this prompts his disciples to intervene. But, apparently, through this parable Jesus wants to recommend perseverance in prayer, the need to pray constantly and not get discouraged. This is exactly what the Canaanite does, and she pesters the disciples who plead with Jesus to intervene. To which Jesus replies that this woman is a foreigner, a Canaanite: “I have not been sent

except to the lost sheep of Israel?" Saying this, Jesus places himself firmly in the perspective of God's project, a project in which, the first stage corresponds to the people of Israel. But here another question arises: How to respond to foreigners, to pagans who want to join the chosen people? Can they open a path to salvation?

- Jesus goes even further. He begins by justifying his refusal to intervene: "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the puppies." But Jesus ends up acting in favour of the Canaanite woman, and why does he change his mind? Because the Canaanite has faith, Jesus says: "Woman, your faith is great. May it happen to you as you wish!"
- Three observations to keep in mind:
  - - Jesus says that the Canaanite woman has faith, simply because she persists in trusting him.
  - - Jesus does not require any of the practices of the Jewish religion from the Canaanite woman: he only highlights her faith.
  - - Finally, it is evident that the mother's obstinacy was guided by her love for her daughter.

**Can we become stubborn enough to ask for and obtain the salvation of the world...when we love it enough?**

### **Clues for prayer**

- Read the text carefully and discover what it says.
- What is inside you that prevents you from getting closer to God?
- What does the gospel invites you to do?

### **AMBIENTAL MUSIC**



**ROB COSTLOW - ENIGMA - PIANO**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQKsCtdWMA>

## UNIVERSALITY

How great is your faith woman  
Allows you to listen  
Feel, visualize  
And resume path  
In a new way,  
Updated and embodied.  
Enables you to search  
Discover and find an answer.  
Space is everything  
People are not some,  
The forms are not one.  
We all, we all fit.  
We all have our  
Wounds, needs  
And searches.  
Current Canaanites,  
Violated women,  
Separated mothers  
Of their children,  
Discarded Girls,  
Abandoned old women,  
Battered wives,  
Discriminated workers,  
Submissive nuns,  
Young people without north  
We all, we all fit.  
The message is universal.  
It is above the  
Minimum indifference.  
It is for the person  
Whoever is  
His prayer, his tongue,

Its origin,  
Its history, past or present.  
It is the one that brings the God  
Of the small gestures,  
Who wants to look at you,  
Listen to you, hug you  
What do you think?  
Constantly in you,  
Whoever you are.  
Is the god  
Of the little saints,  
Of the anonymous innocents,  
Of the unnamed,  
Of those who are not  
In our heart.  
Is the god  
Of those who sigh,  
Of those who lament,  
Almost imperceptible.  
Of the words  
Not pronounced,  
Of those who transit  
On our side  
And they are invisible to us.  
Who are they?  
Canaanite them today?  
What is your response?  
Grant us Lord,  
Be universal,  
Like you are,  
Let it be fulfilled  
what you want

### SONG. I just keep trust in my lord - Providence

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGWhNSQ1xZQ>



Sistes of charity of St.Anne

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