

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday, August 9, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

O woman, great is your faith! (Matthew 15:28)

Can you imagine what must have been going through the disciples' minds when Jesus healed the Canaanite woman's daughter and commended her faith? How did this woman deserve any attention at all? She was a pagan, after all, outside of God's covenant with Israel. Surely there were plenty of needy Jews whom he should have tended to instead. No wonder the disciples tried to convince Jesus to send her away. But he didn't.

There are other instances in the Gospels when Jesus praised the faith of an outsider, someone who was considered unclean. One example is the centurion who told Jesus, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed." Jesus was amazed at this man's trust, and replied, "Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith" (Matthew 8:8, 10). Or we could think of the woman who had suffered from a bleeding disorder for years. She came up behind Jesus, touched his cloak, and was healed. Discovering her, Jesus said, "Daughter, your faith has saved you" (Mark 5:34). Both the pagan centurion and the hemorrhaging woman were considered unclean, and yet Jesus praised them and paid them special attention.

In singling out people like these, Jesus was doing more than simply healing desperate souls. He was also showing his disciples that faith and trust were the keys to experiencing his power. Proximity to him didn't matter, and neither did it make a difference if they knew their doctrine better than other people. More than anything else, it was a person's disposition that made the difference.

Today's reading tells us that Jesus welcomes anyone who comes to him with an open, humble, and willing heart. If unbelievers like the Canaanite woman and the Roman centurion found mercy when they came to Jesus, surely we can! Jesus doesn't discriminate. His arms are open wide, eager to embrace all of us. May we all take our cue from this great woman of faith. May we find hope and inspiration in the disposition of this unnamed, humble, and persistent Gentile!

"Jesus, I am so undeserving of your mercy, but I ask in faith. Just say the word, and I will be healed."

Today's Announcements:

- We would like to wish Gavin Harwell, Gabrielle Miller, Landon Stringer, and Mrs. Vicki Saucier a very Happy Birthday today!
- For those of you who are driving to school, we will begin checking for parking decals starting on Monday. Please make sure you have a new parking decal and parking permit paper submitted to Mrs. Collier in the front office. There are several students who have filled out the paper and have not yet picked up their decal.

- This is a reminder that smartwatches are now included in our cell phone policy. If you have a smartwatch or cell phone, make sure that it is put away or given to your first period teacher.