



## President's Office

### August Devotion

**“Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” (Matthew 15:28)**

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Children don't wait for scraps. Children sit at the table with the Father. A Canaanite woman came to Jesus to ask Him a request, “Heal my demon possessed daughter.” But instead of granting her simple request, He ignored her by not even speaking a word! We hear the cry of the Canaanite woman as she continued to issue her plea for mercy from the Lord. She kept up her persistence until Jesus finally replied, “It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.” Jesus repeated that He was sent to the Jews for earthly ministry. The woman understood Jesus' response and replied, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table” (v. 27). At this response, Jesus commended her faith and granted her request to heal her demon-possessed daughter.

Jesus' mission is clear and focused. He is to seek and save the lost sheep of Israel, but this does not deter the woman. She persists, asking for the crumbs that fall from the master's table. A “crumb” from the mouth of Jesus contained the promise of healing. By faith, this woman knew that only a “crumb” from Jesus would be needed to restore her daughter to complete health. **Jesus granted this woman's request because of her faith — faith granted to her by grace through the Holy Spirit.**

It's a matter of fact that when a need presses, we persist. But when life is okay, we often times forget the Lord. Sadly, there are times in our spiritual lives when it takes things such as cancer, surgery, death, divorce, or a heart attack to wake us back up. A prayer in *The Lutheran Study Bible* says this, “Lord, sometimes I have not because I ask not. Move me to pray with confidence. Amen.” We are not persistent in seeking the Lord's help when the daily routine isn't as pressing as an emergency. Nor are we so persistent when we live in a land where Jesus isn't seen as needed for every breath.

We would do well to learn from this woman. How impatient we are with the Lord when we do not think that He answers our cries for mercy soon enough. Why isn't my ache going away? Why am I still in this hospital bed? Why didn't I get that job promotion at work or the call that I interviewed for?

Through this act of healing to a foreigner, Christ provided for all people a foretaste of divine healing to come. When the risen Lord commanded His disciples to spread His word to all nations (Matthew 28:19), we are included in this very promise. **Jesus was persistent in seeking the lost, which includes us.** On the Cross, Jesus was our substitute, exchanging His perfect life for our sinful ones. On the Third Day, He was bodily raised from the dead. He calls all to repentance and to bow the knee only to Him. Without Him and without His forgiveness, there is only eternal hell and damnation.

This Good News is now ours as it has been showered upon us in Baptism — the very place where we were granted faith and the forgiveness of our sins. At His Table, when we receive His true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, we are given the forgiveness of our sins, the strength to live a God-pleasing life and a foretaste of the eternal banquet yet to come. These means of grace are not mere “crumbs” that fall from the Master's table. Again, children don't wait for scraps. **Children sit at the table with the Father.**

Don't wait for an emergency or some other event in your life to shake you up that causes you to seek the Lord's help. **You are His child.** He spreads out His banquet table before you now. Be diligent in worship and devotion on a daily and weekly basis to receive the Lord's gifts. Filled with those gifts, tell others of what He has done for you. Invite them to your houses of worship and to your Bible study groups. **The Savior is for all!**

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