

[113] **TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME** **A**

FIRST READING

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

56:1, 6-7

The Lord said,
“Be honest and fair!”

“Soon I will come to save you,
and my saving power will be seen.
Foreigners will follow me.
They will love me and worship in my name.
They will respect the Sabbath and keep our agreement.”

“Then I will bring them to my holy mountain
and let them celebrate in my house of worship.
Their sacrifices and offerings will all be welcome on my altar.
And my house will be known as a house of worship for all nations.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

67:1-2, 4, 5 and 7

R. (4) O God, let all nations praise you!

Our God, be kind and bless us!
Be pleased and smile.
Then everyone on earth
will learn to follow you,
and all nations will see
your power to save us.

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

Let the nations celebrate
with joyful songs,
because you judge fairly
and guide all nations.

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

Make everyone praise you
and shout your praises.
Pray for his blessings to continue
and for everyone on earth
to worship our God.

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

ALLELUIA

See Matthew 4:23

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Woman, your faith is great.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus went to the territory near the cities of Tyre and Sidon.
Suddenly a Canaanite woman from there came out shouting,
“Lord and Son of David, have pity on me!
My daughter is full of demons.”

Jesus did not say a word.
But the woman kept following along and shouting,
so his disciples came up and asked him to send her away.

Jesus said, “I was sent only to the people of Israel!
They are like a flock of lost sheep.”

The woman came closer.
Then she kneeled and begged,
“Lord, please help me!”

Jesus replied,
“It isn’t right to take food away from children and feed it to dogs.”

“Lord, that’s true,” the woman said,
“but even dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their owner’s table.”

Jesus answered, “Dear woman, you really do have a lot of faith,
and you will be given what you want.”

At that moment her daughter was healed.

The gospel of the Lord.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Opening Prayer:

Dear God thank you for loving me and sending your son, Jesus into this world to show us how to live. Please help us to use this love to grow into good persons and treat each other fairly and with love. Help me to be strong in my faith and let us never fall into sin and to stay as close to Jesus as we can.

Readings:

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Psalm 67:1-2, 4, 5 and 7

Alleluia Matthew 4:23

Matthew 15:21-28

Reflection:

Why should we be fair and honest when others are not?

Why, because God asked us to, that is the first and most important reason. Our God love us so much that He gave each of us a free will and a mind to think and reason things out, He will not make you choose to be an honest person or any other kind of person no one can force another person to love another person. Love must come freely from each of us or it is not really love.

The Canaanite women knew that she was not liked by the people of Israel, and that they would not like for her to even speak to Jesus much less ask Him for help but she loved her daughter and she also knew that Jesus could help her so she risked everything to get help. She had strong faith in Jesus and His compassionate love; she in many ways had more faith in Jesus than His own people did.

Discussion:

1. Are you always fair when you play games with your friends? Don't you think cheating takes the fun out of the games you play?
2. Did you ever think that Jesus sees and knows when ever we do anything that is not fair to others? What do you think He would want you to do if you have been not fair to others?
3. What do you think you would have done if you were the women with the sick daughter? Could you have risked yourself to get her help?
4. Would you be able to get on your knees in front of people you did not even know and did not like you to beg Jesus to help you?
5. If a friend of yours came up to you and told you that he or she had been cheating at games and asked you to forgive them, what would you do? What would Jesus have done?

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Activity:

1. With a pencil and paper write down things you think people do that are wrong and why you think they are wrong.
2. If there is anything you think you have done wrong to someone else, go to that person and ask them to forgive you.
3. With a pencil and paper make a drawing to show how much Jesus loves every person in the world.
4. Do something nice for someone you do not know very well like asking them to play a game with you.