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Devotion for October 21st, 2021

Matthew 15:21-39

Today's reading is from Matthew 15:21-39. At the end of this reading we hear again about Jesus healing many who are sick and providing food for all those listening to Him. However, I wanted to turn our focus to the beginning of this passage. A woman is asking Jesus for help, and He is seemingly denying her. This seems out of character, seems opposite from what we know of Jesus and His earthly ministry.

We know that this woman is a Gentile, and that's why in verse 24 Jesus references only being sent for those of Israel. When He stated this, the woman challenges Him; she points out that even the lowest got crumbs from the table. With this statement she shows her faith, she advocates for her child, and she confirms to Jesus that she truly believes He is capable of what she has asked.

This is why He says, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire."

What a beautiful reminder this gives us to pray confidently. We know we are fallen, broken, sinful people who are truly deserving of punishment and death. But our Savior humbled Himself for even us. He taught us to pray, He gave us that access to Him. And so we might pray daily for all that we need, and even all that we desire. I pray that you might be continually reminded of the confidence we have in the power of prayer, and that you might truly take all things to Him who has promised to hear you.

*God's blessings,
Marissa Kroenke, Deaconess Intern
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