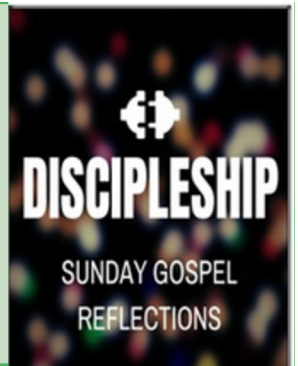


In preparation for August 16, 2026: Twentieth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Theme - Keep Asking, Keep Believing – Persistence Pays Off!

Verse for reflection: The Canaanite woman replied, “Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters.” Then Jesus said to her in reply, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And the woman’s daughter was healed from that hour.

Matthew 15:21-28 (Verses 27-28)



Adults

1. What does “great faith” look like in this passage? Why do you think the Jesus praised the woman’s faith?
2. When have you experienced a time when your faith was tested before receiving an answer? What encourages you to keep trusting God when your prayers seem to go unanswered? What do you do when you are tempted to give up?
3. Do you practice humility regularly in your life? What does the practice of humility look like in your relationship with God?

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Impatience; feeling unworthy or excluded, lack of faith.

Teens

1. In the Gospel today, the disciples wanted Jesus to send the woman away because she was bothering them. Have you ever pushed others away because they were annoying or different than you? Why do you think Jesus responded the way He did? What was He trying to teach them?
2. Jesus doesn’t respond to the woman right away when she asks for His help. Have you ever felt like God was silent when you were praying? What does the woman teach us about persistence in our prayers and faith that God will help?
3. What’s the difference between having faith when everything is going well and having faith when God seems distant?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Giving up too quickly on praying because we expect instant results from God.

Children

1. Have you asked your parents for something or to do something and they told you no, but you kept asking until they gave in or at least gave you a good reason for saying no? How did that make you feel? Why do you think the Canaanite woman kept asking Jesus for his help when at first, he seemed unwilling to help?
2. Jesus says that the Canaanite woman has great faith. How did Jesus respond to her faith? How can you have faith like she showed? How can you be more persistent in your faith?
3. Have you ever had to wait a long time for an answer to a prayer? How can you stay strong in your faith when you do not immediately get the answer you want? Why do you think persistence is important in prayer?
4. Have you ever had a prayer that seemed unanswered but when you looked back at what you had been praying for, you realized it would not have been good for you if you had gotten what you asked for? What does this tell you about Jesus’ love for you?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Wanting immediate answers to our prayers