

SCRAPS

MATTHEW 15: 21-28

8-15

“It is not right to take the food of the children, and throw it to the dogs.”

Our gospel today demonstrates what it means to have faith. A very persistent woman, who wants her daughter healed, confronts Jesus. She is a pagan. She knows what Jesus can do, she accepts Him. She asks for the scraps, the crumbs under the table, that others leave. He grants her request because of her faith in Him.

A question for all of us of faith, so called followers of Jesus is : what are the scraps that we don't want? What are the offerings of our faith, our church, our God that we leave on the floor under the table? How many times do we choose what we want, rather than what we know will bring us closer to Jesus: The opportunities we have to help someone, learn something new, the sacraments, the opportunities to give of ourselves, of our time, talent, or financial resources? Our prayer life? What have we done with the gifts that

we have been given?

Why won't we approach Jesus? Is it; because we don't believe enough? Because our heart is turned inward? Because we are too busy with our stuff? Because Father and the church just don't understand, life is tough; We have so many things to worry about? Our faith has become just one more demand, one more obligation among many?

Jesus wants a relationship with each of us. He is at work in the hearts and souls of all men, women, and children. Perhaps we don't respond to His love for us because we feel we are not good enough. We get in our own way with our expectations of ourselves; We think we don't pray enough, we are not smart enough, or good enough, we don't know enough about our church our faith, we are not loving enough, we are not holy enough etc. etc. Our own guilt is a big obstacle to our relationship with Jesus. We should never let our perception of ourselves confuse the reality that we are loved by God as we are. God's offer of His love for us is always there, it is we who don't accept it.

How often do we ask Jesus for help with those things that we can't handle ourselves, for those people we love and care about? Our faith, our acceptance of Jesus is not a onetime event. We accept Jesus with our lives, and it is not just about our obeying. It is about letting Him get involved in our lives. He will do so only if we ask Him, If we trust Him.

The Canaanite woman in our gospel teaches us a very important lesson. She wasn't afraid to approach Jesus, she was a pagan, unclean by Jewish standards, and she probably didn't even know who Jesus was. But she new what He could do for her daughter. Thus she believed, accepted Jesus. Do we not know what Jesus has done, and can do for us, and those we love?

We should never feel unworthy, or too busy, to approach Jesus, because when we do, we, like the children of Israel, leave Him as a scrap on the floor under the table.