

Light a candle

Sign of the cross

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sing

“Rock of Ages” SE Samonte/Antrim Mennonite Choir

https://youtu.be/gM7gt_cSxjw

“Great is Thy Faithfulness” – Austin Stone Worship

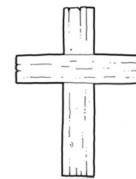
<https://youtu.be/2eQ1oal44wU>

“My Lighthouse” – Rend Collective <https://youtu.be/dSn9HW5P-sA>

God’s Word

Read: Matthew 15:21-28 “A Gentile shows her faith”

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



Reflection

What did the disciples think should be done about the woman from Canaan? They seemed unimpressed by her. The Canaanites were old enemies of Israel. The appalling religious practices of the Canaanites were unacceptable to God. It might have been unexpected to find people of faith amongst the Canaanites, yet Jesus finds a faithful woman. Even though she might have been seen as unimportant and underserving by the disciples – she was Gentile, Canaanite, and a woman - she recognised and confessed that Jesus is Lord, the Son of David, and prayed that he would have mercy on her. Not only did she have great love, she also had great faith. This shows us that we must be humble in faith and not try to judge the faith of others.

Do we deserve help from God?

In Psalm 103 of David we praise the Lord because “he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities” (v10). According to God’s law we are all sinners, yet as Paul writes, “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen” (1 Timothy 1:15-17). Even though we are sinful, Jesus is patient, kind and merciful towards us. We cannot earn or try to be deserving of God’s mercy and help. We can only cling to the foot of the cross of Jesus Christ in faith.

Jesus helps us because of our faith in him; faith that he gives us. Paul tells us this as he writes to the Ephesians, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast” (2:8,9). David also writes, “For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us” (Ps. 103:11-12). In response to God’s love and compassion towards us, we love and trust God.

What does Jesus say and do?

Jesus is pleased with the great faith of the woman and heals her daughter. Again we see that Jesus reaches out his hand to help us when we call out to him. The woman demonstrates courage and persistence, and she knows the voice of the Good Shepherd. She knows that Jesus will help her. May God bless us with love, courage, persistence and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is with us always.

Activity

Prayer is an act of faith. We are asked to pray continually (1 Thess. 5:17). We can pray to our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to have mercy upon us. We can pray to God to help the people of the world who are suffering and need hope.

Music

Ideas: “Our Prayer” – Rend Collective https://youtu.be/U_e3jB7tF8s

“Every Giant Will Fall” – Rend Collective <https://youtu.be/EF84v-oOhp0>

“Be Still – 1 hour...Christian Meditation Music” <https://youtu.be/A5r9skkZtN0>

Bible verses

Revelation 21-22:5

Catechism

The Lord’s Prayer - Conclusion:

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Prayer

Our Father, We know that you want us to pray to you. We thank you for hearing and answering our prayers. Help us to pray to you continually. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Blessing

Psalms 67:1-7 “God shall bless us... And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.”

