

(Food for thought: Gospel Matthew 15: 21-28)

“It’s all about relationship”



In today's Gospel, a Canaanite woman comes to Jesus and cries out for His help. But the disciples press Him to "get rid of her." What they meant, of course, was "She is not one of us. She is a Gentile woman. Your mission is to us, not to outsiders."

Jesus was looking for faith and trust among the people of His own community, and found greater faith within an outsider. He knew that what He was asking was not easy. He knew the ramifications of living out the Gospel message, the responsibilities that His followers would be taking upon

themselves to really live the Good News, and to make His Spirit their own. So, Jesus did not withhold His love and compassion from this "outsider." He cured the Canaanite woman's daughter.

The atmosphere in which Jesus accomplishes His mission has to be one based on faith and trust; it has to be one in which a person can be supported, be encouraged... and one in which concern and compassion are evident.

We are called to create the possibility for others to become present to themselves; we are to become a centre of communion, a community where we cease to be anonymous, where we recognize one another as sisters and brothers, loving one another and caring for one another not because we need them, but simply for themselves. We have been chosen by name, and have been called to create an

environment in which healing takes place, where one is forgiven and reconciled, where concern is fostered, where one feels a sense of belonging. In doing that He challenged people to look deeply into themselves, and to make changes in their lives. It was - and is - all about "relationship."



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