

**St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church**  
**Sermon by Pastor Anthony E. Schultz**  
**September 7, 2014 Matthew 15:21-28**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (series A.)**



### **The Faith of a Canaanite Woman**

<sup>21</sup> Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.” <sup>24</sup> He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.” <sup>25</sup> The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said. <sup>26</sup> He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” <sup>27</sup> “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

People of God – rescued from the flaming lake of fire in hell by the innocent blood of the very Lamb of God:

Jesus loves everyone! That’s hard to understand – the simple, profound Gospel truth that Jesus loves everyone! In some respects people are very different. Take for example Sunday breakfast. If you have breakfast in Urik Uso – a small village in Nigeria – you will have eggs – fresh eggs – laid that morning. *That’s fresh.* You will have baked beans for breakfast. Did you ever have baked beans for breakfast? You would have a little can of fruit juice – or a fresh slice of papaya growing in your front yard. You could have a cup of instant coffee – that does *not* taste like Highlander Grogg – at all! If you have breakfast in Israel you might have fresh squeezed orange juice, some pickled fish, fresh little green onions, some yogurt, some fresh baked barley loaves with some fresh honey or some figs! If you have breakfast in London you might have crumpets – like English muffins – except with even bigger nooks and crannies – for fresh preserves and a cup of fresh brewed Earl Grey tea! If you have breakfast in Paris – they have French Roast coffee – croissants – again – some yogurt in a café with heat lamps overhead – or crepes from a vender on the sidewalk – with strawberries or mousse du’ chocolate or fromage – which is French for cheese! If you are an orphan in Haiti – you don’t get breakfast. If you are an American with parents who are too busy – you can have breakfast at School. And if you are retired you can have a breakfast sandwich – an English muffin with egg and sausage and cheese – and a fruit smoothie out on your deck – checking your e-mail and the newest Facebook posts on your I-pad! Jesus loves everyone! No matter what you had for breakfast – or if you even had breakfast – Jesus loves you very much. All our readings this week talk about how Jesus loves everyone – everyone *everywhere*. Today God’s Word will remind us:

#### **Jesus Loves Everyone!**

- I. **Jesus gives us great faith**
- II. **Jesus answers our prayers.**

There are 64 Bible readings for each year – in the ILCW Series A, B, C, Pericopes. 52 Sundays plus days like Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and Ascension and so. This year – Series A we have 45 readings from Matthew, none from Mark, 4 from Luke and 15 from the Gospel of the Disciple Jesus loved. From now on – through

November 23<sup>rd</sup> we are reading from Matthew. Beginning with Trinity Sunday till the end of the Church Year we are reading from Matthew. Remember the parables? The sower and the seed; the parable of the weeds and the wheat; the parable of the mustard seed and the yeast; the parable of the hidden treasure and the parable of the pearl of great price; and the parable of the net – and how on Judgment Day the angels will sort believers from unbelievers – like sorting the walleyes and the Northern Pike from the Carp and the Bullhead and the Sheephead!

God's Word says, <sup>21</sup> **Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.** In the little space between paragraphs in my Seminary study Bible I wrote, "*That place – the place around Capernaum was a densely populated area around the Sea of Galilee. The people were incessant in their demands for healing – a hunger for the Gospel – not so much.*" Can you understand that? Do you love your doctors? Do they sing happy birthday on your voice mail when you turned 60? Do they listen to your ♥ and your breathing? If you get a kidney stone – you have to go up to the Hospital. And depending on if they are busy or not – they start an IV. Then they give you powerful pain medication. And usually that works pretty quickly – *usually* – but not always. Sometimes pain medication makes one kind of pain go away – but then your stomach is bothered! Have you listened to the list of possible – *potential* side effects from some medications? Swelling of the throat – face and tongue – maybe cancer – maybe ♥ attacks and strokes. Yikes! When Jesus made you better – all He had to do was touch you – or you touched say the hem of his gown – or he looked at you – or he told the people you sent that you were all better and by the time they got back home – they would find that you were healed the moment He said you would be better! And it wasn't a little better – drink plenty of fluids – take these pain pills – if you aren't must better in 24 hours – call or come in again and we will take another look. When Jesus made you better – you were better than ever immediately! When Jesus cured lepers – people dying from a cancer that grew from the outside in – can you imagine how soft and smooth your skin was? The softest little baby would envy skin as soft and pure and wonderful as your skin would be! What little spot or birthmark would dare defy the living Christ who willed you to be well?!

<sup>21</sup> **Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.** Leaving the place where people seemed more interested in making all their aches and pains go away. Leaving the place where people seemed more interested in the most delicious barley loaves and the finest salt fish you ever tasted – Jesus withdrew to the north – near the coast – by Lebanon – by the Mediterranean Sea – by people not descended from Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah. Mark chpt. 7 says, **"Jesus entered a house and didn't want anyone to know it."** But they did. This Phoenician woman probably waited outside and when Jesus came outside she followed Him. Matthew writes, <sup>22</sup> **A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."** This woman's plea was not for herself but for her daughter – possessed by an evil – fallen angel – serving the father of lies – the murderer from the beginning – the ruler of the kingdom of the air. When Jesus – the very Son of God – was alive here on earth in a most obvious way – it sometimes seems the devil was more and more obviously present, too. It is almost impossible to imagine the ♥ ache you would know – to discover that a demon had invaded the life of your daughter! As terrible as a single demon most have been – imagine for a moment – Mary Magdalene – out of whom Jesus cast 7 demons. That would be so horrible it would be a miracle to even survive! To be demon possessed – a person would be capable of unspeakable and horrible murderous perverted evil! And yet – we misunderstand – if we think the devil is always so crude and obvious – to have the devil in your ♥ means – making the room cold – split pea soup – floating above the bed – greasy tangled hair and bad teeth and bad breath – roll your

eyes back gross. You can be the sweetest little grandma – baking chocolate chip cookies for orphans – nice. And yet – if Jesus doesn't fill your ♥ the devil does. There are not ♥s and minds everywhere – empty – spiritually neutral – waiting for someone to move in. Either we are for Jesus or we are against Him! We need to bring up our children and grandchildren in the nurture and admonition – in the instruction and discipline of the Lord! If you stop and think about it – infant baptism – and 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation are only just the beginning! Judgment Day is not a matter of being able to find our framed picture of our 14 year old child wearing a white robe – holding a new Bible or hymnal from their Sponsors in front of the altar – with Pastor Gartner and Pastor Schultz standing behind them! We live in a world where some of the most painful and difficult spiritual temptations are going to come – when our children and grandchildren are 16, 17 – in high school. That is why our **Luther Preparatory School** and our **Lakeside Lutheran High School** are so precious! At these schools – every single class is taught in the light of God's Word! One of my brothers-in-law taught chemistry in an area Lutheran High School. The Periodic Chart of Elements – was like a devotion. Every chemical was a product of God's wisdom, God's power and God's love. Another of my brothers-in-law taught English – literature – novels – short stories. Again every story in the light of God's Word. What is the conflict – man against man – man against nature – man against something within himself? Evil is sin and in a Lutheran High School you can call it that. When something happens – a student's parent dies – you can pray about it – right here – right now. When there is sin and discipline it's administered in the light of God's Word – law and gospel! In our Lutheran High Schools – people with gifts and abilities – especially a ♥ of love and faith and compassion – can be directly encouraged to be a pastor or teacher or staff minister – to dedicate every hour of their life to serving and sharing Jesus!

<sup>23</sup> Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." <sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." <sup>25</sup> The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. <sup>26</sup> He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." Jesus pretended – *pretended* not to care. She cried out – cried out for help – and he did not answer a word! The disciples – Jesus' students, followers, imitators – you would expect compassion from them. But no – they found the woman pleading for her daughter to be an aggravation and they asked Jesus to send her away – because she keeps crying out after us! So Jesus tells her, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel – the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah. Still not discouraged she falls on her knees before Jesus and pleads, "Lord help me!" Still Jesus pretends he won't. "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the wild, stray – street dogs!" This was cold and this was harsh! I wonder of Jesus didn't have to turn away – lest she see the tear in His eye.

<sup>27</sup> "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment. Jesus gives the gift of great faith – through the means of grace – that is the Gospel in Scripture, baptism and Lord's Supper. Jesus gave this woman great faith. He answered her prayer and set her daughter free! Jesus always answers our prayers. Sometimes he says yes. Sometimes he says no – because it would do more harm than good. Sometimes he says – here is something far *far* better. And sometimes he says wait – the time is not right. But Jesus always hears our prayers and always answers them in the way best for our eternal good! Jesus loves everyone – *everyone every-where*! When I was in middle school my best friend was Gary Kiiskilia – K-i-i-s-k-i-l-i-a. Gary Kiiskilia was Finnish. What do Finnish people like? The ever-faithful potato. The potato is served every day in Finland. You can see it

almost everywhere you go. If you have lunch at a local diners there it is...! The potato! They have potatoes mashed with a meat sauce. They have peeled potato served with chicken, pork or deer. Potatoes are at **Hesburgers**—that's Finnish McDonalds!. Potatoes are the main ingredient in **Nakkisoppa**--Finnish soup. It consists of boiled, peeled potatoes, sausages, carrots, onions and soup bouillon for flavor. Yum! on a cold snowy winter day potato quarters are grilled. These potatoes are served with diced sausages, catsup, mustard or mayonnaise served in a paper container they become an instant "hand-warmer". Jesus loves Gary Kiiskilia. Do you know anyone who is Dutch? Uncle Marty is Dutch— from Holland. Uncle Marty likes Dutch licorice— which tastes kind of salty. Uncle Marty's mom used to eat a lot of Eel. Did you ever eat eel? You are supposed to skin eel— or the skin gets soggy. Uncle Marty likes oliebolle. Did you ever hear of oliebolle? It's a deep fried donut with raisins inside and powdered sugar sprinkled on the outside! Jesus loves Uncle Marty, too. Jesus loves everyone. He died on the  $\dagger$  to wash away all our sins. Jesus' forgiving love never fails and it is intended for everyone— for you and everyone else! Amen!

*To God alone all glory!*

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature reads "Rev. Anthony P. Schatz" in a cursive script.