

20 Sunday OT
August 16'26 – Cycle A



**THE TABLE GETS BIG
OR IT'S NOT A TABLE**

Today the Word enters shouting, like a woman who does not remain silent. It does not come from within: it comes from outside, from the territory that is not ours. It reminds us that God does not fit into borders, nor into surnames of pure faith. That great faith is not measured in purity, but in hunger and insistence. There are crumbs that save, and tables that fall short if they are not opened.

Let this Word uninstall us, make us uncomfortable, widen us. May what I heard today with the mind come down this week to the hands: gesture, table, embrace.

Let's start, with our hearts wide open.

SONG. SANCTE – LIBERA

<https://youtu.be/SDgKX8HO-sA?si=P9YcfWTJ86Kyjvip>

GODSPEL – MATTHEW 15: 21 – 28

"And Jesus went out into the region of Tyre and Sidon. At this moment a Canaanite woman, who had left that territory, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. His disciples came and begged him, "Grant it, for he is coming shouting behind us." He answered, "I have been sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came to bow down before him and said, "Lord, help me!" He answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." "Yes, sir," she replied, "but dogs also eat from the crumbs that fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith; let it happen to you as you wish." And from that moment his daughter was cured."

DEEPENING THE MESSAGE THE WORD

Is 56:1.6-7. God welcomes into his house all those who accept his covenant and his laws. This ecumenism, willed by God, is the mark of a community strongly rooted in its faith.

Psalms 66:2-8. A prayer that takes hold of the whole world: that all nations may find God's way.

Rom 11:13-15, 29-32. Paul wants all the pagans, of whom he is an apostle, to share his hope. It is necessary to believe that God's gifts are irrevocable and that divine mercy is and will always be offered to all.

Matthew 15:21 – 28. It is interesting to see that this scene occurs immediately after a teaching of Jesus on the subject of purity. It is known that, in the Jewish world, purity is not the absence of sin, but the attitude to adopt in order to approach God, when in reality, evil intentions come from the heart... Apparently, through this parable, Jesus wants to recommend perseverance in prayer, the need to pray constantly and not to be discouraged. This is exactly what the Canaanite does, and she pesters the disciples who plead with Jesus to intervene. To which Jesus replies that this woman is a foreigner, a Canaanite: "I have been sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." By saying this, Jesus places himself firmly in the perspective of God's plan, a project in which the first stage corresponds to the people of Israel. But here another question arises: How to respond to foreigners, to pagans who wish to join the chosen people? Can they make a way to salvation? Jesus goes even further. He begins by justifying his refusal to intervene: "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." Finally, Jesus ends up acting in favor of the Canaanite woman, and why does he change his mind? Because the Canaanite woman has faith, Jesus says: "Woman, your faith is great. Jesus does not demand of the Canaanite woman more than her faith. Finally, it is evident that the mother's obstinacy was guided by love for her daughter. **Can we become obstinate enough to ask for and obtain the salvation of the world... when we love him enough?**

GOLD WITH THE WORD

"Woman, your faith is great", it is the faith of this woman that changes the attitude of Jesus. I think about what my faith is like. Do I trust in Jesus' action? Do I trust my strength?...



I ADORE YOU – FREE

<https://youtu.be/8edFEkhd46s?si=uzKDgTzmdQGfFxZ7>

The Echo of the Glen

https://youtu.be/W-fbPRAH1ys?si=y_dKuuPT4veAaPfj

BAREFOOT WALKING

Lord, today a woman cries from
the edge of my world.
It's not theory, it's real hunger,
and I, do I let it pass?

I have my faith well kept,
in drawers, on Sundays.
You want her in the street,
sweating, without fear of ridicule.

You say that there are house
sheep and dogs that ask for
crumbs.
But she teaches you, Jesus, that
love does not understand labels.

How many Canaanite women do
I shout, without hearing their
cry? How many tables do I close
on the inside while I pray on the
outside?

Teach me to be a crumb that
falls and feeds another, not bread
kept in the pantry, but an open
hand and a bare foot.

The faith that surprises you is
not the one that repeats
formulas, it is the one that
insists, the one that shouts, the
one that does not surrender to
silence.

Make me a table that widens, not
a wall that defends itself. Let my
fraternity not be a beautiful word
without deed.

Today I take your word to the
mud, I take it from paper to life.
May what you desire be fulfilled,
Lord: that we may all, all of us,
be one in You.

SONG. HEAVEN – LIBERA

<https://youtu.be/sD646FrxGWk?si=1VRKHuKACXN2ETev>



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