



## HOMILY 20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY ORD TIME

BY THE HOLY SPIRIT ASST BY

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Since Jesus was only sent for the lost sheep of Israel. Why did he even go to that region of Tyre and Sidon?

Jesus did what was unthinkable he left his home turf, where people looked like him, acted like him, even dressed like him. He went to the region of Tyre and Sidon. That might not mean much to us but for his time that was considered the home for the pagans, unclean foreigners.

Today some would call them the low life's of society

When an Israelite calls a pagan or a non-Israelite a dog that is almost like the sling words we use for other nationalities today. Words we are not even allowed to say today.

Even the disciples treated her like a dog when they told Jesus "Send her away She is a pest!"

**Matthew had a point to make and obviously so did Jesus!**

For this Canaanite woman, it didn't matter what Jesus believed or how he was dressed. She heard about his healing.

You have to admire this woman's courage! Even after Jesus insulted her she didn't back down.

This woman was desperate. Any parent with a special needs child would know exactly how she was feeling.

## JMJ PRAY FOR US ST DOMINIC PRAY FOR US

But she was a fighter! She was going to demand Jesus respect and healing for her daughter.

We can applaud this woman because in those days we can we really understand what chances she was taken. Women were not allowed to speak unless given permission by her husband. Jesus talking to her was bad enough, but even calling her a dog was not just referring to her but that was the derogator word they used for all Canaanites.

I read what even one of the respected rabbis **a century after Jesus** death quoted as saying: “One must utter three doxologies every day, “Praise God that he did not create me a heathen. Praise God he did not create me a woman. Praise God he did not create me an illiterate person.”

This woman reminded me of Mother Angelica of EWTN , who never heard of the word “No you can’t do that, and you’re a woman”!

Mother Angelica was another good example of not letting fear and hatred keep her from her mission. She knew what she had to do and against all odds and sometimes even some of the Church hierarchy would try to block her from her mission. Because of her faith, she accomplished so very much in evangelizing the world. If you want to be inspired on how to preserve doing God’s work read her book.

I compare this woman with Mother Angelica because there are so many issues today that we struggle with even within our own church. We sometimes feel like we are the foreigners in our own country. The abortion issue still divides us from the rest of the world. The LGBT issues seems like we are very misunderstood.

This story of the Canaanite woman touches on today’s national debate about immigration politically and emotionally.

I can only hope and pray that the dialog continues on both sides of the issue. The same with the LGBT community, not saying we have to agree. But maybe if there was a dialogue, just maybe some where we could agree to disagree.

Hatred between people of different races and color are becoming unbearable. The riots in Charlottesville, is a prime example of fear and hatred going out of control here in the United States.

Instead of taking responsibility, we seem to want to blame the other person.

It is called prejudices and how much of this do we own?

Do we want peace? Are we part of the problem or part of the solution?

## JMJ PRAY FOR US ST DOMINIC PRAY FOR US

We must take a stand, not just because it is right, but because it is our duty as Catholic Christians to stand up against fear and hatred!!

We just celebrated the feast of the Assumption of Mary. How many of us still believe and pray to Mary to intercede to her son for us?

Remember Mary's promise if we want peace pray the rosary!!

Do we even pray for peace? How much attention do we give Jesus Christ and his Church? Do we do just the minimum?

We must have the courage like the Canaanite Woman, who knew what her child needed and her love was greater than her fear!

You know **with** all these issues. Jesus is the only answer for peace.

The world seems to have forgotten this---we must not.

The world doesn't know this -----but it is relying on us!!!!!!

We need to heed what St John the Baptist and Jesus told us: "Repent and sin no more!"

Then we are reminded of what Jesus and St Pope John Paul II told us, "Be Not Afraid!"

With these 2 reminders, we can have the faith like this Canaanite woman

Remember what Jesus finally said to her: O woman how great is your faith and her daughter was healed.

Can we, do we have this kind of faith!!!!!!

Let there be peace on Earth but let it begin with me and you!!!!

AMEN!!!!!!