

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 15:21-28

Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto Him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and besought Him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, help me. But He answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour. (KJV)

The Lord God is amazing and well beyond the human imagination. God is bigger and greater than the human mind can fathom. God created the mind and put the mind into the human.

Believers are to use the mind, heart, and soul for the glory, understanding and love of God. A glimpse of the greatness and healing power of God exists in the present Gospel reading.

This mother with a daughter vexed by the devil appealed to Jesus for healing. The mother's faith was resolute. She perceived in Jesus Christ the power to heal her daughter.

The mother was resolute in her approach to Jesus. The mother's love of her daughter was beyond measure. The hope and desire for healing were clearly evident. The Lord Jesus Christ recognized the strength of faith in the mother.

Jesus healed the daughter. Jesus' healing of the daughter vexed by the devil has withstood the test of time. The proclamation of the healing from St. Matthew's Gospel takes place in God's Holy Church each year.

Around the world and through the centuries, parents with children vexed by the devil have found hope for their sons and daughters in the present Gospel reading. Jesus Christ is the ultimate hope and healer for parents.

Too often parents turn to other than Jesus Christ in search of solutions. Often parents do not even think of Jesus Christ as the Solution to the problems being experienced with a son or daughter.

Jesus' healing power is evident in the current Gospel. Jesus' healing power is readily visible to believers with eyes to see. Attentive believers will hear of Jesus' power to love and to heal.

Serious believers rejoice in Jesus Christ. Serious believers are grateful for the healing power of Christ and the love Jesus expresses by healing. When Jesus' heals, the devil's presence is expelled.

A firm and continuing relationship with Jesus Christ reveals the Lord's immeasurable greatness. The greatness of Jesus Christ continues to unfold and is revealed as the relationship with the believer matures.

Jesus Christ is to be the believer's most serious relationship. The intended life-long relationship with Jesus Christ is established at baptism. The believer has the responsibility to renew the relationship throughout life.

The mother and daughter in the current Gospel developed a new relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus transformed the mother and daughter. The mother and daughter would no longer be as they were.

The mother had a great weight lifted from her life. The daughter had a great weight lifted from her life. Both the mother and daughter were renewed. They would change in their basis for daily relationships and going forward in life.

Every person can begin anew in Jesus Christ. Every person can turn to Jesus Christ with firmness of faith and hope. The mother and daughter in the present Gospel are enduring examples that healing can occur and the devil be defeated.

Every person is vexed with attacks from the devil. Jesus Christ is the power to defeat the devil. Jesus Christ is the power to grant new life to the believer. New life begins at baptism and continues as believers renew the relationship with Christ.

Following their experience with Christ, the mother and daughter were new in their community. The mother and daughter became a family in a healthy relationship with Jesus Christ. The devil no longer dominated their lives.

Jesus brought health to the daughter. Jesus removed the stress from the mother. The mother and daughter had great reason to be grateful to Jesus Christ for the healing.

Each person has reason to show gratitude to the Lord Jesus Christ when healing takes place in life. The Lord Jesus Christ is due unending gratitude when healing occurs.

Attentive believers learn of the power of faith in the present Gospel. Parents of every generation find hope in the Gospel. The possibility of healing exists for believers turning to Jesus in hope and with resolute faith.

The relationship with Jesus Christ continues throughout life. Each person determines the degree of interest in growing in the relationship. The mother and daughter in the Gospel reveal the joy of turning to Jesus Christ in faith and hope.

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost. Sts. Stephen and Helena (Stiljanovic)
October 4.17, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic