



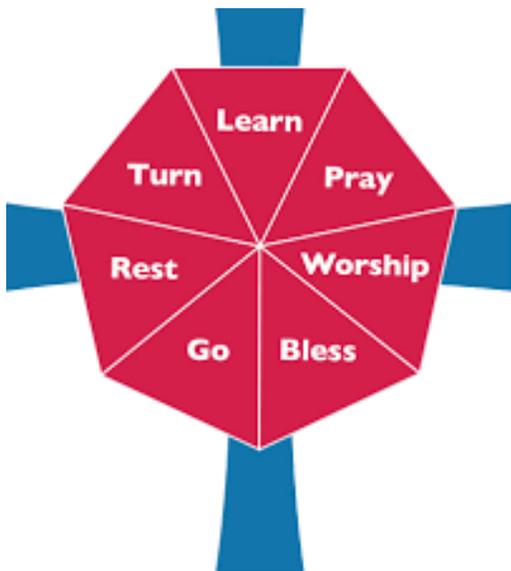
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY August 16 & BEYOND

Crumbs of Super Abundant Grace



We live in a society of super consumption and super waste of food and other essential items. We are used to taking for granted that we will never lack, that we will have more than we need and that we can simply throw away the leftovers. In other parts of the world, and even in the middle of our cities, there are those who lack even the most essential things to survive and would be happy to have an insignificant part of what we mindlessly throw away.

However, taking for granted that we deserve everything is not confined to the realm of material goods. The Jewish people were the undeserved recipients of God's infinite grace in a special way. They were chosen by God to be the holy people who would live according to their Lord's governance and His Way of Love. They were also called to be the beacons of this Way for the rest of the nations. Some understood this mission properly and tried to follow, being aware that the grace they had been granted needed to be gratuitously shared with the rest of humankind. But others conditioned God's grace to the following of their own customs and rules, many of which were no longer a true reflection of God's will.

God's incarnate Word was born as part of this chosen people. Jesus understood His mission within the context of the Law that God's chosen people had received. He understood that this original Law had been corrupted and misunderstood in most cases, and that He had come to make the Law find its true fulfillment. He knew that the true Law of Love comprised all that the Jewish law contained. His vision was not that the rest of the world should be excluded, but that God's chosen people would understand their graceful role and take this transforming message to the rest of the nations.

But some among the Jewish people, particularly the ruling members of the official religion, rejected Jesus' Way of Love. And these people were influential in the masses. They failed to feed their own people or the rest of the nations. They simply took for granted God's Grace and wasted it away.

The encounter between Jesus and the Canaanite woman is a very controversial passage that appears both in Matthew and Mark. It is hard to like what Jesus said to the woman before He grants her the grace she was asking for desperately. He called her "dog" as opposed to the children of Israel. Even though some commentators have clarified that the word Jesus used referred to a pet dog, and was therefore not so pejorative. There is a clear discrimination and humiliation here. No one can really ascertain what Jesus had in His mind and what His inner motives were, but it is still hard to like His words here.

Whether the woman made a change in Jesus' mindset in relation to His mission remains a debatable issue. Some commentators say He was simply testing both the disciples and the woman's faith. That is debatable too. Even though we may dislike His words, the fact remains that He offered God's healing grace abundantly to this woman without asking anything in return. The passage does not say that the Canaanite woman stopped worshiping her gods and was converted to Jesus' Way. She did use a Messianic name for Him when she called Him, but this is probably what she had heard from some of her Jewish neighbors. She had also heard about Jesus' miraculous healings, and that was what she desperately needed. She recognized herself as an outsider and was content with the crumbs of His abundant grace shed upon her daughter. She was not denied that grace, even though she did not offer to change her old ways in return.

The Church is the new Israel. We are now God's chosen people to illuminate all the nations with His Way of Love. Like the old Israel, however, we often fall into the temptation to take God's Grace for granted and waste it away. And we often forget

Jesus' encounter with this woman, the one that He asserted had "great faith". Let us never forget that God's loving Grace is unconditional. A conditioned grace is no grace at all. We are to shed it abundantly, as we have received it from our Savior and Lord, so that it reaches out to the confines of the world.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1-7 Psalm 67 Romans 11:13-15, 29-32 Matthew 15:21-28

CALENDAR

Note: All Sunday Masses will be held in All Saints' Courtyard at 9am. All other gatherings will be Zoom meetings. Visit our web site for the Zoom link (see below).

SUNDAY: The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
9:00am Mass in All Saints' Courtyard
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

TUESDAY Noonday Service
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

FRIDAY Fridays at Noon – Exploring Scripture
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

SUNDAY The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00am Mass in All Saints' Courtyard
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org