

20th Sunday of the Year  
August 17, 2014  
Matthew 15:21-28

A Canaanite woman came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon . . . Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters."  
Matthew 15: 21-28

Wanting to be found

I remember playing hide-and-seek as a kid on at my house:

"My sister was 'It.'

When my sister was 'It," she cheated.

Well, she started off honestly enough; she would say, 'One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, ninety-three, ninety-four.' But I had a place under the porch and under the steps of the porch.

Because of my size I could get under there, and I knew she'd never find me. 'Ninety nine, one hundred.

Here I come, ready or not.'  
Here she came, in the house, out of the house, in the weeds, in the trees, down to the backyard, around the side of the house.

She couldn't find me.

I almost gave myself away, down under there just snickering to myself, *She'll never find me here, she'll never find me here.*

"Then it occurred to me . . .  
*she'll never find me here.*

So after a while I would stick out my foot.

When she came by and saw my foot, she said, 'Uh oh, I see you,' and she'd run back and touch the base three times and say,

'Ha, ha, you're it, you're it.' I would come out brushing myself and saying, 'Oh shoot, you found me.'

"What did I want?

What did I really want?

The very same thing as you. Isn't that true?"

[Fred Craddock, Craddock Stories.]

Every one of us wants to be "found," every one of us wants our presence to mean something, every one of us wants to know that we matter.

The Canaanite woman in today's Gospel seeks what we all seek:

to be acknowledged as good,  
to be respected as a child of God,  
to be welcomed as a sister and brother to all.

In honoring the goodness and love of the Canaanite mother (who, as a Canaanite, is despised by Jesus' hearers), Jesus opens up our perspectives and illuminates our vision, enabling us to see one another as God sees us.

The call to discipleship demands that we look beyond labels and stereotypes to realize that every one of us is a child of God, brothers and sisters all.