

GOSPEL PEARLS

A sincere faith

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And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly. (Matthew 15: 21-28)

Initially Jesus's announcement of the Kingdom of Heaven is addressed to the people of Israel. He, therefore, applies the love due to his neighbour, which is the basis of some commandments, since the "first neighbour" is the one closest to you (family , city, homeland). The woman's insistence, however, also highlights how our faith, if sincere, can anticipate God's plans for our salvation, especially when we realize that Jesus's particular attention to us is enough to help us to fight our material and spiritual problems. May we ask in our prayers today that the Lord increase our faith in Him