

XIX Sunday in Ordinary Time: The Power of Humility

“He said in reply, ‘It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.’ She said, ‘Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters.’ Then Jesus said to her in reply, ‘O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And the woman’s daughter was healed from that hour.” (Mt 15: 25-28)

This week’s Gospel offers us the role model of a woman who asked Jesus to heal her daughter. Although the Lord, in an odd way and to test her faith, compared her to a dog, she did not respond to Him with anger but continued to insist with humility. This humility opened Jesus’ heart and obtained the miracle.

And so, we see an example of how our prayer should be: persistent and humble. We often ask God for things which after a while, sometimes after a very short period of time, we stop praying for; ultimately, we did not really care about them. Frequently, instead of asking, we tend to demand, treating God not as the Lord but as our servant. We treat God as if He were at our service and as if His main duty was to please us and satisfy our whims. Without humility, prayer is impossible, even that of petition. He who is humble knows that what he is asking for is a gift and not a right, and therefore does not get angry if it is not granted. If it is granted, he gives thanks for it, but if it is not, he accepts the mystery and gives thanks for the rest of the wonderful things that God has given him. If we were to ask like this, we would surely receive more. In any case, what we didn’t get would not become a reason for a crisis of faith, as happens to those who distance themselves from God when their petitions are not granted.

Purpose: Analyze what you really need to pray for in order to persevere. Then, ask with humility by saying to the Lord that you will not leave His side if He does not grant it to you.