

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost (2017)

Matthew 15:21-28 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.”¹

In the Name of Jesus.

³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!

⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.²

Uh-oh!

AND, hooray!

The Risen Jesus sent the Eleven disciples to make more disciples. Where? ALL nations! With what? With a washing done with HIS authority, and ever growing teaching about the equity of our Baptism into Christ! ‘Let the nations praise you, O God! ALL nations! Let them rejoice and be glad and sing!’ Why? ‘For you judge the peoples with EQUITY!’

So, again: uh-oh!

AND, hooray!

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mt 15:26–27). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ps 67:3–4). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

For our Baptism into Christ teaches us each morning as we rise, each night as we practice for the cemetery, all day long as we offend others and others offend us—our Baptism teaches us until the End: God...don'....play...favorites!

In other words, 'Repent and trust the Pledge of God in your Baptism!' Do we EVER have a lot of things to run FROM, to run TOWARD! And we daily have MORE reasons to praise the Lord for His equitable, fair Baptism!

This dear woman—nameless to us, precious to God!—Canaanite, from Tyre and Sidon, will NOT let Jesus be there, in her town, but NOT 'BE-THERE'—FOR...HER! Jesus' judgment on that? 'I think that's GREAT!' Why else had He come?

This poor Gospel lesson is unpalatable to most people in our land, in our day. GREAT! It was in Jesus' day too! Just before this lesson we get this:

And he called the people to him and said to them, "Hear and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person."
¹² Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?"

Oh, no! The PHARISEES were OFFENDED?! Yes! And the sky is blue! And the grass is green! It's their JOB, their CALLING to be OFFENDED! Who is living wrong, eating

wrong, hygienic wrong, speaking wrong, worshiping wrong—or just PLAIN wrong! About the ONLY thing the Pharisees would have approved of in Jesus is when He ignored this woman, and called her and her little child too ‘dogs under the table.’

‘Let the peoples praise you, O God! Let ALL the peoples praise you!’

For this lesson, this woman, her great faith—and most of all, HER Lord!

For she has taught all nations now for two millennia what the Baptism of the nations means, what the equity of God equals, and just how much OURS Jesus of Nazareth is King of not just one tiny place or people, but for all! She...HAS...HIM! Hooked good and tight, like a fish on the line! And all she had to do was reel Him in!

‘Dogs? Dogs? That’s ALL you got?! Then I have you, Lord, Son of David! It is YOUR problem—NOT MINE!—that my daughter is sick, and that I don’t belong, and that I am offensive to God AND men! Because YOU are here, in MY TOWN, wearing the SAME flesh as ME—it is no longer MY PROBLEM that YOU or ANYONE ELSE, even HEAVEN, find ME unappealing, unworthy, somehow ‘beneath,’ or ‘low,’ or ‘not worth the bother.’ You are on your way to the cross, for all. And I’m part of ‘all.’ So now, YOU...ARE...MINE!’

One day, my dear ones, your poor pastor is going to learn to pray and believe and praise God and rejoice, like this woman.

‘Dogs it is! But dogs get crumbs!’

And so do we!

What most men find low, unappealing, not worth bothering about—it’s all ours, my dear disciples: our great faith, our life, our God, our heaven.

The Small Catechism asks the question of the offended, the question of unbelief:

How can SIMPLE WATER ‘work forgiveness of sins, rescue from death and the devil, and give eternal salvation to all?!’
Water! Water?! Harrumph!

And, the Small Catechism of Doctor Martin Luther answers: water it is, but not just plain water; it also has the authority and word of the LEAST appealing, the LEAST respected Man Who’s ever lived! The One Who received NO equitable treatment in this world! And with the authority of The Lord, the Lord ‘gone to the dogs!,’ if ALL you have to offer heaven is your shortcomings, your quick and easy giving way to the devil, your appointment with death and all that’s sick, sick, sick—

Well then, REJOICE, O nations! ALL peoples! For when you are washed by the authority of THAT MAN, you can never be offended again! Not by God; and so, ignore the offense that men try to throw your way. THAT is what’s beneath you now!

Are you easily offended, my dear ones? Do people not recognize, applaud, appreciate the greatness that is you? Not

enough gratitude coming your way, respect, love—from men?
From your God?

Rejoice! That's just the old Pharisee in you, who is alive and well in me, too! That's the reason that the Holy Spirit gives as the main reason for getting together on Sunday morning is to receive little, lowly, saving gifts. Again, the Small Catechism asks for our Proud Old Adam, and for the world, 'How can a bit of pasty bread and a sip of this super-scrumptious wine bring to us forgiveness, life and salvation?'

Answer: It CANNOT! Not for the Pharisee! Not for un-faith! Not for the one who MUST be feted and praised and recognized, AC...KNOWLEDGED!

But for this woman—'You're joking, right, Jesus? Dogs? That's the worst you can do?! Now I've heard ten times WORSE thins about me this morning already...'.—(Let's leave her in wonder and worship!)

For those who can ONLY be GIVE-TO, the bread and wine ARE what lowly Jesus said they were, the night one of His best disciples betrayed Him, His best friend denied He ever knew Him; and the worst and the best of this world had had enough of Him.

My Body; My Blood; and there are always, ONLY,
FOR...YOU!

For whom? For dogs; for sinners; for those who can no longer be offended any more, at least not by other MEN!

Last week I baptized a little girl. She's two weeks and a day old now. And she, little Jesus says, is our role model. Unless we turn and become just like lil' Em'ly Strickland, we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.

But she doesn't even know how to pray to God as her dear Father?

Great! I'VE got THAT!

But all she does is take, take, take!

CHECK!

All she does is make messes that others have to clean up!

I'm going to score 100% today!

She still has to learn how to READ, even how to LISTEN to the Word of God!

(It's getting SCARY, isn't it, my dear ones!)

And ALL that little Emily has going for her is the promise of her Baptism!

Dearly beloved: ignore every voice that tells you that YOU, need anything else going for you besides your Baptism in the

Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!