

08-20-23 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Jesus is here to remind us of the depth of God’s compassion. And he is here to remind us that if we choose to follow him, this will be our calling: to respect the dignity of every human being and to freely offer everyone – no matter who they are or what they’ve done – the love and compassion that comes from God.”

- David Vryhof



Matthew 15:21-28

Questions for Reflection —

- Who are those people that you find it difficult to like or accept? What social or cultural assumptions interfere with your ability to see others, especially those in need, as Jesus sees them? What will enable you to enter into authentic relationship with and acceptance of others across differences? Where is there opportunity, both within the congregation as well as beyond the walls of the church, for us to show by word and action that God’s love, mercy, and healing are offered to all?

- Under what circumstances or in what situations have you felt like an outsider? What is it like to be on the outside? What persons or groups of people might feel like outsiders in the church in general or maybe even in our congregation in particular? What would it look like for us to go out of our way in providing welcome for outsiders? How can we as a congregation be as inclusive as possible?

- Have you ever felt that God might not be paying much attention to your prayers? What does it mean to be persistent in prayer? What long-standing, seemingly unanswered prayer request do you need to continue bringing before God? What are your deepest needs right now? What would it mean for you to have “great faith” in the face of those needs?

Daily Household Prayer

Teach us, Ruler of the universe, to see people by the light of the faith we profess,
that we may check in ourselves all ungenerous judgments, all presumptuous claims,
that, recognizing the needs and rightful claims of others, we may remove old hatreds and
rivalries and hasten new understandings,
that we may bring our tributes of excellence to the treasury of our common humanity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.