August 16, 2020

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER:

O God, you reach out to embrace the outcast and the foreigner, and all those who call on you. Teach us as disciples to love the world so much your name may be known in every place. Amen.

PRELUDE *How Firm a Foundation*

 *Offered by Justin Valleau and Laura Rhodes*

CHILDREN’S SERMON:

The Bible story today comes from Matthew. Matthew is one of the four books we call a gospel. Gospels are stories about Jesus’s life.

In today’s story, Jesus and the disciples are walking along when a woman who needs help comes up to them. The disciples are a little weirded out by her request for help because she is from a different town and practices a different religion. And so they ask Jesus to send her away.

The woman refuses to be sent away. She tells Jesus that she knows he is a God of mercy and that her daughter is very sick. Jesus is impressed by the woman, he calls her faithful and in the end he heals her daughter and sends her home blessed.

I know what the disciples were going through. They really didn’t know if they wanted to help someone who was a lot different from them. But in my experience, just like in this story, the more we get to know folks who are asking for help, the more they turn out to be a lot like us.

That’s why this week and for the next month I want you all to think about making a small bank. I’ve made one here from a jar and some tissue paper. I’m going to put my spare change in it for the next few weeks to raise money for UMCOR, which is a branch of our church that spends money helping people all over the world.

Right now, during the coronavirus UMCOR has been searching out communities that were particularly impacted by the loss of schools and work. They have been granting money through a program called Shelter in Love, one of the places that money is going is Vietnam. The Vietnam Mission Initiative is working with our church to make sure no one gets too sick or too hungry while schools and businesses are shut down.

One gentleman who appeared in a United Methodist Church looking for food said, “My name Can Tho. “I am Buddhist. Do I also get a food packet?” He was surprised to be a recipient. “God’s love is for everyone no matter what religion,” the pastor told him. He responded with a happy wide smile. Without the aid of the church Can Tho is not sure how we would have made it through the month of July.

We have a chance to take what is extra in our own houses and make sure that those who ask, get the help they need. No matter what town or church they belong to.

I’m going to pray for us right now, and for the mission our money will benefit.

**Dear God, help us be helpers. Bless our gifts and those who need them. Amen.**

ANTHEM *Carry You Home recorded by Tricia Yearwood*

 *adapted by The Early Worship Band*

SERMON LESSON *Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28*
15:10 Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:

15:11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles."

15:12 Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?"

15:13 He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.

15:14 Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit."

15:15 But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us."

15:16 Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding?

15:17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?

15:18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.

15:19 For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.

15:20 These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

15:21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

15:22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon."

15:23 But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."

15:24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

15:25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."

15:26 He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

15:27 She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

15:28 Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

SERMON RESOURCES

Keener, C. S. (2009). *The gospel of Matthew: A socio-rhetorical commentary.* Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. (pp. 408-418).

Richardson, J. (August 15, 2008). *The feast beneath*. <http://paintedprayerbook.com/2008/08/15/the-feast-beneath/#.U95STFzvbnc> retrieved August 11, 2020.

Witherington III, B. (2006.) *Smyth and Helwys Bible commentary.* Macon, Georgia: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, Inc. (pp. 294-303).

SERMON *From Crumbs* Rev. Krysta Rexrode Wolfe

SERMON NOTES

* Matthew is in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Testament and is one of the four books, when put together, we call the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Jesus’s movement was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ movement in which he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people’s hearts.
* In this context we learn that “Canaanite” is code for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The Canaanite woman knows Jesus is Lord and calls him \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Jesus tries to dissuade this woman from engaging with him, but instead of responding with defensiveness she responds with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* At the end of the story Jesus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the woman, and her daughter is healed.

In the sermon, I suggest that God honors the intentions of our hearts, particularly when we are using our voice to speak on behalf of others who have no voice. What are you feeling passionate about right now? What places or steps toward advocacy will you explore this week?

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Feel free to share your responses with Pastor Krysta at crosslanesumc@gmail.com or by using these hashtags on social media #wearethechurchtogether #hoperises #crosslanesumc

SENDING SONG  *Just As I Am* UMH #357

BENEDICTION

Go forth with persistence, faith, and love to be transformed. Amen.