



Our Lord gave us the “Lord’s Prayer” (Mat. 6:9-13) to show us for what we should pray. However, the question remains as to **how** we should pray. The Gospel reading for the Sunday of the Canaanite Woman (Mat. 15:21-28) gives us the perfect answer. This Gentile woman sought out our Lord for help as her daughter was severely ill from demon possession. She first addressed our Lord by His Messianic name, “the Son of David,” thus confessing that Jesus was the Christ, the foundation and summation of all Christian theology. She then implored our Lord to have mercy...as her daughter had an illness that threatened her life. When Christ’s disciples asked our Lord to send her away without addressing her need, she remained unfazed, and continued to cry out to Jesus. All of her initial pleas were met by silence from Jesus...an experience we frequently encounter in our prayers. Yet, she persisted to beseech our Lord. When our Lord finally responded to her that He had come only “for the lost sheep of Israel,” she remained undeterred and moved closer to Him...knelt down...and said “Lord help me.” Here we understand and see her deep faith that was anchored in her hope that Jesus Christ would indeed have mercy on her. While testing her faith, our Lord then confronted her by saying “it is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” Rather than become angry or dejected, she chose to humble herself further and responded in agreement...yet implored Him for just a few “crumbs.” In other words, just a little bit of His Grace would suffice. Thus, we see the perfect template with which to pray; confess Jesus as Lord, approach Him with faith and hope, and continue to humble ourselves as we undeservedly ask for His mercy. In doing so, our Lord will respond to us just as He did to her, “great is your faith, may it be done for you as you wish.

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Scripture Readings: Matthew 6: 9-13 and Matthew 15:21-28