



Twentieth Week in the Ordinary Time

The first reading which comes from the Prophet Isaiah speaks of God's impartiality. Those who join themselves to the Lord even though foreigners, who love His name will be taken by God to His holy mountain. God wishes His house to be a house of prayer for all people.

In Psalm 67 sung in today's liturgy, the plea to God is permission for all the nations to praise Him. Even in the songs of the Old Testament, it was understood that God wishes to receive all who call upon Him.

We hear in the 15th chapter of Matthew's gospel the interaction between Jesus and the Canaanite woman. She comes to the Lord begging Him to help her daughter possessed by a demon. Jesus tests her by explaining that His mission was to the people of Israel. She persists humbling herself before the Lord comparing herself to a dog who sits waiting for scraps of food which fall from the table of the master. Jesus in reply notes her great faith and fulfills her request. Her daughter is restored at that very moment.

The Liturgy of the Word today has something to teach us. When we approach God with humility, the Lord looks upon us with mercy and in His divine plan answers our requests as well. Like God speaking to the prophet, we too are urged to love the name of the Lord, keep the sabbath with reverence, and observe the covenant made between Him and us. A relationship marked by love and reverence.

Peace,

Father Robert