

REFLECTION

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, August 16th, 2026

Scripture: Matthew 15:23

This week, we will meditate on "His disciples came and urged him, 'Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us.'" This text depicts a Canaanite lady calling out to Jesus because her daughter is in pain. She is desperate, but the disciples appear to be more concerned with getting rid of her than with hearing her plight.

The disciples' actions present a challenge to us as Christians. How frequently do we "send away" persons who appear to bother, inconvenience, or differ from us? Who are the "Canaanite women" in our lives, the people we tend to ignore or push away? Do we regard interruptions as a challenge or an opportunity for grace? Sometimes the pain of others becomes an interruption rather than a chance to demonstrate compassion. We get uncomfortable with constant need, and we can confuse inconvenience with irrelevance. Perhaps, deep down, the disciples reasoned: She's not one of us; why should we help? But Jesus taught His disciples—and us—that those who cry out for help should not be disregarded. The Church is called to be a place where the wounded, destitute, strangers, and those who feel excluded can gather and be heard.

Therefore, when we see someone who is persistently begging for assistance, we should not become irritated. Instead, let us learn to listen compassionately, for the individuals we desire to push away are the ones God sends to teach us. Furthermore, prioritize compassion over convenience. But we must be aware that mercy frequently costs us time, energy, and comfort.

