

EVEN THE DOGS

ISAIAH 56:1, 6–8 | ROMANS 11:1–2A, 13–15, 28–32 | MATTHEW 15:21–28

Jesus calls this woman a _____

Speech that _____

Or maybe _____

What great _____

What if...

READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REMEMBER.

What great faith. To believe in a merciful God.

To be cynical for a second, indeed, that *is great faith*. As those subject to sin – of our own doing and of others – what great *faith* it is to go on believing that mercy is even possible in this world. Mercy is vulnerable. Mercy is weak. Mercy is fragile. And yet again and again in the Gospel of Matthew as I have been reading it – mercy is of God. It lives in Jesus' compassionate healing. It lives moves in His crucifixion. I don't need great faith for the sake of power or status. I don't need great faith for be my own person. I need great faith to be *faithing* mercy, because Jesus seems to think it is really, really important. Read Matthew 18:21-35 for a parallel, or really all of 18. Mercy is developed alongside faith, faith alongside mercy.

Reflect:

What is the greatest mercy you have had shown to you by another human being? What is the greatest mercy you had to show? How did/do these moments shape you?

Respond:

The words and thoughts that make me "other" people are _____. I repent of these words and thoughts.

Remember:

Matthew 15:28a – "Then Jesus said to her, 'Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.'"