

August 17, 2008
Sunday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Matthew 15:21-28

"O woman, great is your faith! ¶Let it be done for you as you wish."

Recently, a few friends and I were talking about what it took to be holy. One of my friends shared with us a book she had recently read. The author wrote about her work in an underdeveloped country. She felt called to lead the people in developing the resources of their land. She met obstacles and opposition at every turn. But she kept on, knowing it was the right thing to do. She knew her efforts would bring a better standard of living to a poverty stricken area. The people who saw her as a threat, or the situational forces beyond her control did not deter her efforts. She said that she succeeded solely because of persistence. My friend then remarked, "I might not know how to be holy, but I do know how to be persistent." I see the woman in this gospel as persistent. Her claim to holiness is that she believed enough to keep asking, even begging. Also, as I pray with this gospel today, I cannot help but wonder who is suffering while I ignore their plight, thinking that other things are more important. I hope that their persistence makes me stop and take notice as it did for Jesus that day so many years ago.

In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don't. ~Blaise Pascal