

**BIBLE READINGS - August 20, 2023**  
**Matthew 15:10-28 - Revised Standard Version**

**Things That Defile**

<sup>10</sup> And he called the people to him and said to them, “Hear and understand: <sup>11</sup> not what goes into the mouth defiles a man, but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.” <sup>12</sup> Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?” <sup>13</sup> He answered, “Every plant which my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. <sup>14</sup> Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”

<sup>15</sup> But Peter said to him, “Explain the parable to us.” <sup>16</sup> And he said, “Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup> Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and so passes on? <sup>18</sup> But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a man. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup> These are what defile a man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”

**The Canaanite Woman’s Faith**

<sup>21</sup> And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon.” <sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying after us.”

<sup>24</sup> He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” <sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” <sup>26</sup> And he answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>27</sup> She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.