

Daily Homily
St. John Mary Vianney, priest
Memorial
Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time, Wednesday
4 August 2021
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This is one of my favorite passages in the Gospel, the Canaanite Woman. She takes me to a place of prayer almost immediately. It would seem, at first that she calls out the worst in Jesus. After all, did he actually call her a dog? No matter the time, the culture, the social codes of the day that is never a good thing.

But I like this moment because this woman understands discipleship... and she doesn't even fit the mold. Jesus told his disciples to place themselves at the lowest place at the table. For this woman, she gets it and takes Jesus' word a step further. She doesn't place herself at the table at all, she sits under the table with the dogs. Now that's a disciple.

When she's there, she doesn't expect a full meal. Just a scrap. She knows that if it comes from Jesus' hands, a scrap is all she needs. A scrap will do. A scrap is everything. That's all she asks for, just a scrap. From Jesus, that scrap will satisfy everything. Now that's a disciple.

It's what happens here today. We are invited to this table. We should all be careful where we place ourselves, for the Lord is head of this table. And what do we receive? Not a full meal at all, just a scrap. But we too know, that in this scrap, given to us from Jesus, is everything... body, blood, soul, and divinity ... a taste of heaven ... food of angels ... bond of love ... medicine of immortality ... and so much more.

Just a scrap. That's all we need to take our discipleship deep.