



## Grains

“I would name salvation as simply the readiness, the capacity, and the willingness to stay in relationship.” –Richard Rohr

“Jesus wore the glasses of justice but found that even he came to a situation where he needed a stronger prescription.” –Courtney hall Lee

## Field

<sup>11</sup>it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.”... <sup>21</sup>Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting 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>He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food 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, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Mt. 15:11, 21-28

## Thoughts

Several years ago, a white pastor from outside of Wisconsin and the UP, told the story of members from an area in his synod complaining about how dirty the water was in their community. He was a progressive leader but confessed that he wasn’t taking the words of the complaining individuals, many of whom were impoverished people color, seriously. But then he saw for himself how the water was visibly polluted. He realized his own bias and approached the members he hadn’t listened to in a renewed relationship. They shared a common humanity and a crisis that could occur elsewhere.

The water is dirty. Who else is saying that? The Safe Drinking Water Act guarantees all of us have access to clean, drinkable water, but water systems that serve marginalized areas are more likely to be unsafe. In Milwaukee, Deanna Branch, advocated for her children, one of whom suffered from severe lead poisoning from drinking water. Deanna was heard by her church, Hephatha Lutheran, her community, and finally even the White House. Here is a [video](#). But how long does it take to hear certain truths?

At first, Jesus seemed to dismiss the Canaanite woman’s request for her daughter to be healed. Was he having difficulty recognizing the common ground of faith they shared because Jesus was still growing and needed to broaden his vision? Was he testing her? Some say he focused on the future, which the woman wanted a glimpse of right then and there. In the end, it was significant that the woman and Jesus were able to expand their worlds to include each other.

May we be graced to extend our relationships in ways that bring healing to one another and God’s creation. Happy Monday!

## Share

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy