

FEBRUARY 10, 2022
Memorial of St. Scholastica, Virgin
1 Kings 10: 1-10; Mark 7: 14-23

“FOLLOW THE WAY OF JESUS.”

The Lord of Kings David and Solomon is a generous God and at the same time a God of justice. King David sinned against God, but He forgave David and restored their relationship. For King Solomon, he was given wisdom to rule the kingdom and God's generosity and splendour were given to Solomon. Like King David, King Solomon went astray from God and became blinded with his 'love' to his foreign wives. We heard from our First Reading, Solomon built and allowed his wives to worship gods that led him to be away from the God of Israel. His idolatry made God angry and began his kingdom to fall. God is a jealous God and loyalty is very essential to Him. King Solomon became unfaithful and abandoned the covenant to God. All Solomon asked, God gave because of God's love for him. God was so generous and faithful to him, and his people experienced marvelous deeds of God. All these were gone because of Solomon's idolatry, distrust, and disloyalty to the One who gave all to him.

In the gospel, Jesus tested the faith of the Gentile woman who begged to cast out the demon from her daughter. Her faith and trust led the healing of her daughter even at first, it seems she was 'rejected' by Jesus. Her answer satisfied Jesus and granted her request. He saw her humility, sacrifice, faith, and love when she said: "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."¹ She needed just crumbs not the entire food and she asked it not for herself but for her daughter. Jesus saw a mother's love, one of the greatest love on earth which Jesus also experienced from her mother.

My dear brothers and sisters, her powerful faith is instantly rewarded, and her daughter is cured. Let us pray that kind of faith may be with us also: persevering faith,

¹ Mark 7: 28 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society

humble, and will sacrifice or face everything even pride and rejection for the sake of love for others. May we not go astray like Solomon and throw away our good relationship with God by idolizing worldly things and create false explanation and reasons to rationalize, defend and justify what we do. We pray that we may live in integrity, genuine love and wisdom that gives us an understanding into where truth and goodness are to be found and the road to that is nothing else but the Way of Jesus. Let us ask the intercession of St. Scholastica, our saint of today, who is loyal follower of Jesus until her death and dedicated her life for the service of others. Like her twin brother, St. Benedict, she spent a lot of time in prayer and conversation with God. May we imitate her and do the same as we ask her: St. Scholastica, pray for us.