

## **Commentary on the Gospel for Thu, Feb 8th 2024**

### **Missionaries without borders**

Today's Gospel speaks of a desperate mother who would do anything for her child's health. In today's terms, Jesus' response to this pagan woman was harsh and offensive. In the Jewish world of the time, however, there was nothing inappropriate about it. It perfectly reflected the attitude of Jews who referred to Gentiles as dogs.

Being in a position that involves power, be it in the Church, the family or our workplaces, we would love to see our desires and decisions accepted and executed. A company manager reversing his decision at the request of a sweeper or a parish priest reconsidering his plan of action at the request of parishioners are not everyday events.

The foreign woman's love for her daughter makes Jesus change his mind. He seemed to submit himself to a conversion of heart. The process of conversion involves identifying prejudices, letting go of them, and broadening one's perspectives. Jesus teaches us how to set aside our deep prejudices to bring healing to the world beyond the religious boundaries. We are called to be missionaries without borders!

In today's Gospel, we're encouraged to open up our homes and hearts to those who differ in many ways, so we can incorporate them into our faith community.

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