**Let the children be fed first**

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11 (Mk 7, 24-30)**

The Lord has always allowed Himself to be overcome by a wise, intelligent faith of his friends, which obliges Him to act by the wisdom and intelligence that the faith that His friends have shown him. An example will be sufficient to convince us of how much wisdom and intelligence are needed when it is necessary to implore a grace from the Lord. Let usfirst listen and then reflect: *“While the two men walked on farther toward Sodom, the LORD remained standing before Abraham. Then Abraham drew nearer to him and said: "Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty? Suppose there were fifty innocent people in the city; would you wipe out the place, rather than spare it for the sake of the fifty-innocent people within it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to make the innocent die with the guilty, so that the innocent and the guilty would be treated alike! Should not the judge of all the world act with justice? " The LORD replied," If I find fifty innocent people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake. " Abraham spoke up again:" See how I am presuming to speak to my Lord, though I am but dust and ashes! What if there are five less than fifty innocent people? Will you destroy the whole city because of those five? "" I will not destroy it, "he answered," if I find forty-five there. " But Abraham persisted, saying," What if only forty are found there?" replied, "I will forebear doing it for the sake of the forty." Then he said, "Let not my Lord grow impatient if I go on. What if only thirty are found there? "He replied," I will forebear doing it if I can find but thirty there. " Still he went on," Since I have thus dared to speak to my Lord, what if there are no more than twenty?"" I will not destroy it, "he answered," for the sake of the twenty. " But he still persisted:" Please, let not my Lord grow angry if I speak up this last time. What if there are at least ten there?"" For the sake of those ten, "he replied," I will not destroy it. "(Gen 18,22-32).*What is Abraham’s intelligence and what is his wisdom? To rely on the truth of his God, who is the Judge of all the earth. What is a judge called to? To condemn the offender and to absolve the innocent. If God destroys Sodom by making righteous and sinners perish, who will believe more that the Lord is true Judge, who judges every man with pure truth. The wicked must be punished. The righteous liberated. Abraham asks for more. He asks that sinners be spared because of the righteous. God welcomes Abraham’s wise and intelligent prayer. He turns out to be a true Judge.

*From that place he went off to the district of Tire. He entered a house and wanted no one to know about it, but he could not escape notice. Soon a woman whose daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him. She came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, a Syrophoenician by birth, and she begged him to drive the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first. For it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She replied and said to him, "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's scraps." Then he said to her, "For saying this, you may go. The demon has gone out of your daughter." When the woman went home, she found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.*

Jesus tells the woman that she has no rights because she is not a daughter. The bread belongs to the children. It is not for dogs. The woman accepts this Word of Jesus. It is true. Jesus is not speaking lies. His own particular law is not being created so that he does not perform the requested miracle. But He forget one thing: among men it is law that little dogs feed on the crumbs that fall from the table of their masters. Indeed, the owner often drops some crumbs so that the dogs can feed. This is the law among men. Now God can never be less righteous than men and consequently not even Christ Jesus, who speaks and acts in the name of his Father. Not only, Jesus has to let the crumbs be for the dogs, but also, he himself can, out of compassion and love, deliberately drop some crumbs from the table. In the face of so much wisdom and intelligence, Christ Jesus surrenders. He cannot fail to grant the miracle. If he didn’t allow it, it would be unfair. But we know that the Lord is divine, eternal, supreme justice. The miracle is immediately granted to the woman’s faith, a wise, intelligent, true faith. This faith the Lord asks of all his worshipers.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us of true, pure, intelligent, wise faith.