

Jesus Came for the Whole World

Ephesians 3:1-13

New
Testament
Reading

“Of this I became a minister by the gift of God’s grace that was granted me in accord with the exercise of his power. To me, the very least of all the holy ones, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the inscrutable riches of Christ.” Ephesians 3:7-8

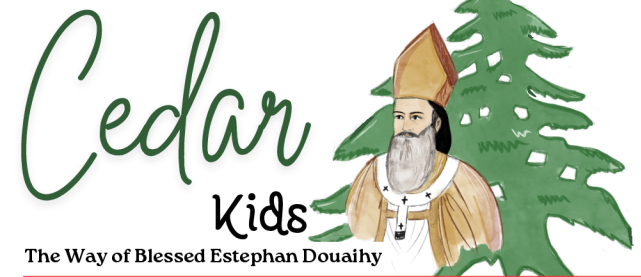
Have you heard the word *Gentile* before? Do you know what it means? Gentile is the word that is used in the Bible for anyone who is not a Jew.

All throughout the Old Testament we learn about how the Jews are God’s chosen people. God rescues the Jewish people time and time again in the Old Testament. He sends Moses to bring them out of slavery in Egypt, He sends food raining from Heaven for them in the dessert, and He promises to send a Savior from among them.



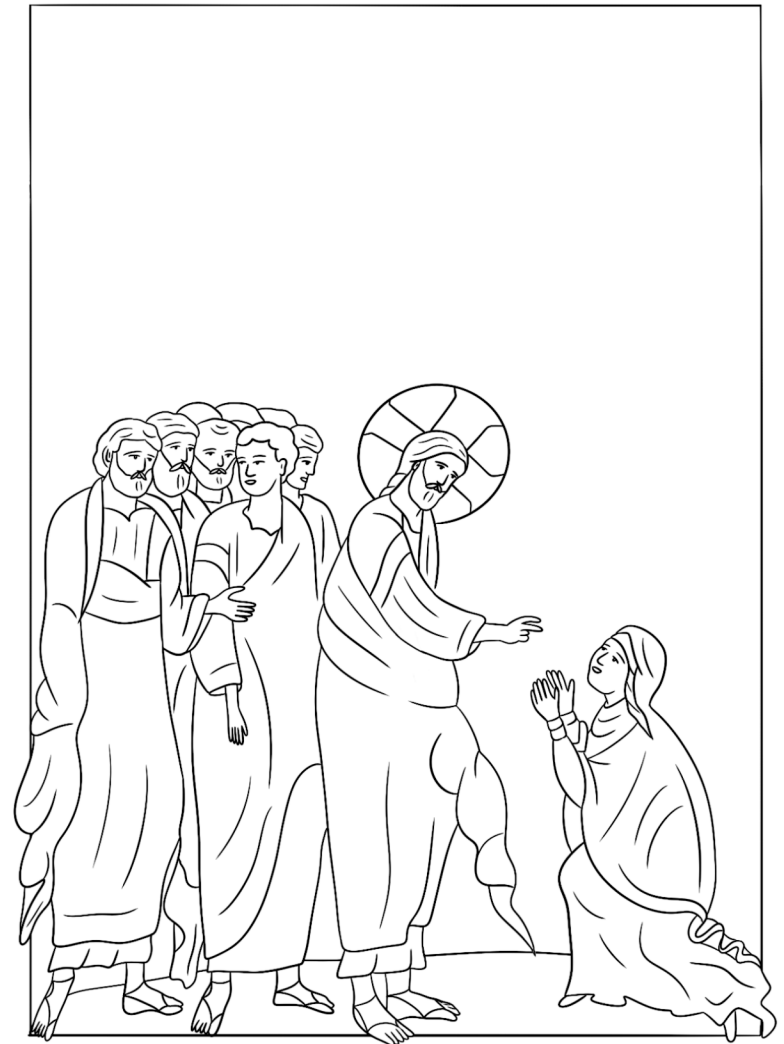
God fulfills His promise when Jesus comes, born from Mary, a young Jew, who was chosen by God to be His mother.

However, things take an exciting turn later in the New Testament when Jesus shares that He has come to save the *whole world*. Even though Jesus is a Jew, and the Jews have been God’s chosen people throughout history, God loves the *entire world* so much that He sent Jesus to open the door to eternal life for Jews and Gentiles. We simply have to accept this, believe in Him, receive the Mysteries, and live in accordance with God’s plan for us. This is good news!



The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy

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Then Jesus said to her in reply,
“O woman, great is your faith!”





Gospel Corner

Matthew
15:21-28

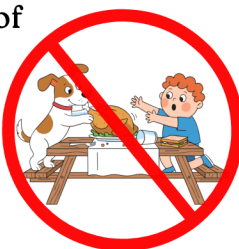
As we mature and grow in our faith, we learn to love God and other people more each day. We hopefully come to know Jesus better, to pray with a pure heart, and make good choices. In order to grow and mature in our faith, it is important we are challenged from time-to-time. We hear about something like this in today's Gospel when a woman comes to Jesus with a request.

When Jesus went to the cities of Tyre and Sidon, a Canaanite woman found Jesus and said to him: "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But Jesus ignored her!



Then, his disciples urged him to send the woman away. This time Jesus made the statement that he was only sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. You see, the woman was a Gentile and not a member of the Jewish faith. Although Jesus seemed to be saying "no" to the woman in a cold or mean way, the Canaanite woman cried out again: "Lord, help me."

Jesus's third response to the woman's request was to exclaim that it was not right to take the food of the children (the Jewish people) and give it to the dogs (meaning the Gentiles). For sure this time the woman would leave, right? No! Instead she replied, "even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table!"



In the end, Jesus commended the woman for her great faith and healed her daughter. Jesus was not being cruel to her - he knew her heart and her great faith. Jesus tested her to give her the opportunity to show her great faith, and be an example to the others around her.

Did you know?

UNIVERSAL REDEMPTION

Jesus Christ came to earth, died, and rose from the dead to offer salvation to every single human person. God desires all people to be saved and join him in heaven one day.

While God's grace is offered freely, every person has free will to accept or reject it.

What you
can do



Jesus came to earth to serve everyone, not just a specific group of people. Make sure you are kind and welcoming to everyone regardless of who they are, where they are from, what they look like, or what group of friends they have.

Traveling to the area of Tyre & Sidon

Help Jesus find his way to the area of Tyre and Sidon where he will encounter the Canaanite woman.

