

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

12th February 2026

First reading

1 Kings 11:4-13

‘Since you have not kept my covenant I will tear the kingdom from you; but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David.’

When Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord, as David his father had done. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.

And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods. But he did not keep what the Lord commanded. Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, ‘Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant. Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 106(105):3-4.35-36. 37, 40. R4a

O Lord, remember the favour you show to your people.

Blessed are they who observe what is just,
who at all times do what is right.

O Lord, remember me
with the favour you show to your people.

Instead they mingled with the nations,
and learned to act as they did.

They also served their idols,
and these became a snare to entrap them.

They even offered their sons
and their daughters in sacrifice to demons.

Then the Lord's anger blazed against his people;
he was filled with horror at his heritage.

Gospel Acclamation

James 1:21bc

Alleluia, alleluia.

Receive with meekness the implanted word,
which is able to save your souls.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 7:24-30

‘The dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.’

At that time: Jesus arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. And he said to her, ‘Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.’ But she answered him, ‘Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.’ And he said to her, ‘For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter.’ And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

Short reflection on the reading for today

Women are centre stage in today’s readings. The pagan women married by Solomon led him away from his faith in God. By contrast, a pagan woman surprises Jesus with her faith and humble perseverance. These texts invite a reflection about the influence between the sexes, in family as well as in the wider circle of friendship. Our identity as men or women helps us fulfil each other in various ways, and challenge each other to fulfil our potential. In the first chapter of Genesis the first woman and man complement one another because both are made in the image of God.

Many of the women praised in the Scriptures can inspire both men and women, just as holy men are an example for all. All the talents that are scattered and fragmented find their union in Jesus, for as Paul says: “among you it is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, for all are one in Christ Jesus” (Gal 3:28-29). Bonding with Jesus in a radical remedy for any discord based from gender.

In his response to the Syro-Phoenician woman Jesus at first pays no attention to her request. It’s hard to explain his harsh reply to this pagan, except that he was avoiding the mistake of Solomon, who was led astray by foreign women. His first, gruff response is changed by the woman’s perseverance and love for her child. What he said about not throwing the children’s food to the dogs is countered by her mild reply: “but even the dogs under the table eat the family’s leavings.” This apt, humble answer overcomes all objections, so Jesus heals the woman’s daughter – a splendid example of faith and perseverance rewarded.