



# Our Lady of Calvary

RETREAT CENTER

## Mouthy Women in the New Testament

June 7 & 14, 2017 @ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Joan Kennedy



The story of the Canaanite woman's encounter with Jesus (Matthew 15:21-28) contains a powerful message for women today, a message that speaking up for what really matters (being "mouthy") can be transformative.

We begin by reflecting on our own experiences of speaking up to someone in authority. How hard was it? What was at stake? How were you perceived? How did things turn out? We'll consider the social and cultural reasons why women of today may remain quiet, why they may speak up, and how both choices feel.

Having gotten in touch with our own experience and wisdom, we'll consider several examples in the Bible where someone spoke up – to God, to the king's men, to an archangel. We'll take a look at the patriarchal culture of the ancient Near East and the ambiguous models it offered for women of Jesus' time. We'll reflect on some mouthy women of Church history, for example, Saint Catherine of Siena.

With all these perspectives in our minds, we'll read the story of the Canaanite woman together, imagining the feelings of both Jesus and the woman during their conversation. We'll go deeper into the meaning of the story by learning what some contemporary theologians believe to be the backstory about this woman, based on what is known about social norms and women's behavior at the time of Jesus.

Then we can ask ourselves the same questions about the Canaanite woman that we asked ourselves earlier: How hard was it for her to speak up? What was at stake? How was she perceived? How did things turn out? And, perhaps most amazing, what happened to Jesus?

Are we also called to be Canaanite women?

"Mouthy Women of the New Testament: The Canaanite Woman" is a highly interactive program, involving small-group discussion, large group discussion, and some presentation.

**Presenter: Joan Kennedy** received her Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree in 2011 from the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. She develops her own programs and has delivered them in parishes, retreat centers, private homes, and as a component of diocesan offerings. She also facilitates on-line adult faith formation programs for STM Online: Crossroads, a program of the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

### Mouthy Women in the New Testament

June 7 & 14, 2017

Dinner - \$30

Program - \$50

### REGISTRATION FORM

Name .....

Address .....

City..... State..... Zip.....

Phone..... Email.....

**PAYMENT MUST BE MADE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION.**

**PLEASE HELP US PLAN BY REGISTERING AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE PROGRAM.**

I am coming for dinner. My \$15 offering is enclosed.

My \$25 offering for the workshop is enclosed.

Mail reservation and offering to: **Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center**

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