



Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - June 27, 2021

OUR MISSION: Share Christ with the World.

OUR VISION: A Dynamic and Joyful Church Where People Experience God's Saving Love

WE VALUE: Hearts Overflowing with Gratitude for all God's Gifts.

1st Reading: Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24 • **2nd Reading** **2 Corinthians 8:7,9,13-15**

Gospel of Mark: Mark 5:21-43

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him, and he stayed close to the sea.

One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came forward. Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying, "My daughter is at the point of death. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live." He went off with him, and a large crowd followed him and pressed upon him.

There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet she was not helped but only grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak.

She said, "If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured." Immediately her flow of blood dried up.

She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who has touched my clothes?"

But his disciples said to Jesus, "You see how the crowd is pressing upon you, and yet you ask, 'Who touched me?'" And he looked around to see who had done it. The woman, realizing what had happened to her, approached in fear and

trembling. She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction."

While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue official's house arrived and said, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?" Disregarding the message that was reported, Jesus said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid; just have faith." He did not allow anyone to accompany him inside except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official, he caught sight of a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. So, he went in and said to them,

"Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep." And they ridiculed him. Then he put them all out. He took along the child's father and mother and those who were with him and entered the room where the child was. He took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha kum," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around. At that they were utterly astounded. He gave strict orders that no one should know this and said that she should be given something to eat.

REFLECTION

Gospel: "Do not be afraid; just have faith." Two lives changed, two grateful hearts, so much good coming from our generous and loving God. In one scenario, pleading with Jesus for a daughter as death arrives. In the other, a woman reaches out and touches Jesus' garment, sure of His ability to heal. One is a community leader. The other is a woman desperate for a cure to a condition that kept her ostracized by the community. One approaches secretly; the other publicly. Two journeys – but both had faith in Jesus, above all else.

DISCUSSION

1. **Cured. Healed. Resurrected. Changed. Made New (New Creation).** Which of these would you use to describe the woman? The girl? What about Jairus? The crowd? The community? A cure is one thing – healing is another. How many lives were affected because of the bold acts of faith by the woman and Jairus – and the generous life-giving gifts of our God?

2. **Mark highlights the value of every human life, especially those considered outcasts in the eyes of society.** Have you ever felt like an outcast? If so, what was that feeling like? What do you think it is like for the homeless, the mentally ill, and other outcasts of society?

Note: Bishop Robert Barron on the Gospel account: The woman touches Jesus – and how radical and dangerous an act that was since it should have rendered Jesus unclean. But so great is her faith that her touch, instead, renders her clean. Jesus restores her to community ... and puts an end to the code. The identity of the new Israel, the new Church, would not be through rituals but through imitation of him.

3. **Most of us might say that our faith is unshakable, but most of us have never been as desperate as the woman or as Jairus.** Compare this week's Gospel to last week, when Jesus scorned the apostles: "Why are you terrified? Do you not have faith?" This week: "Do not be afraid; just have faith." Is turning to faith a first thought for us – or a last desperate move? Can you think of a time where Jesus would have said: "Your faith has saved you"?

4. **The Gospel ends with Jesus saying to give the girl something to eat.** How did this line strike you? What do we need after we're "cured" to be made "whole"?

We Value: Heart's Overflowing with Gratitude for All God's Gifts

Below is a faith journey reflection by a Kansas pastor on Mark's account. Walk the journey – can you find these steps in the Gospel? How about your own faith? Do you land at gratitude?

1. **The journey to a miracle is a journey of faith.**
2. **The journey to a miracle often starts with a crisis.** Great needs provide a window of opportunity for God's greater solutions.
3. **The journey to a miracle will always lead us to pray.** An urgent request is the very essence of prayer. What would have happened if Jairus asked nothing of the Lord?
4. **The journey to a miracle will often undo our pride.** It took a great deal of humility to make such a request of Jesus.
5. **The journey to a miracle may often acquaint us with another's miracle.** That's no accident, we need the encouragement. Our faith can falter during these journeys.
6. **The journey to a miracle often leads us through deeper despair.** Dire times causes people to give up. It's a good thing the Lord was there to encourage.
7. **The journey to a miracle often leads through the scorn of unbelievers.**
8. **The journey to a miracle will always lead us to absolute astonishment.** Divine intervention is bound to leave us with a sense of awe.
9. **The journey to a miracle will always increase our faith.** This all began with faith, and it ended with greater faith.
10. **The journey to a miracle will always fill our hearts with gratitude!**